KIDS GO TO THE PLANETARIUM Token 1

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PATH TO THE



SCHOO RAP

> How safe primaries? PAGE 5



**SEAN BEAN** TURNS ON THE LIGHT

The new star of Anna Karenina



upgraded ballroom dancing at its

latest meeting because of changes in

She said: "Ballroom dancing is not

just something that couples do at

weddings any more. The emphasis has

changed. Ballroom dancing has be-

come dance sport. They put a lot of

time, money and commitment into it. It is one of the largest clubs within the

There are 800 ballroom dancers at

Oxford alone, making it the third

largest university club. Ballroom

dancing is one of the most popular

student activities at both universities.

the sport.

university."

Chopard

Formality ends with 'call me Tony'

# Holidays cut as MPs face 22-Bill session

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR cast aside tradition and formality and demanded discipline and hard work yesterday as the first Labour Cabinet meeting for 18 years approved an all-action programme of 22 Bills to become law in a marathon parliamentary session.

The measures, which include two education Bills to drive up standards and reduce class sizes, an attack on crime and a shake-up of the health service, as well as the radical olan to establish a Scottish parliament, were given the go-ahead at a "serious and brisk"

two-hour gathering.
The session will start on Wednesday and go through to the autumn of 1998, as Labour acts straightsway to fulfil many of the key pledges of its.

Mr Blair told his colleagues to "call me Tony" as he announced that the centuriesold tradition of ministers adtitles in Cabinet was to be dropped. Ministers will use their Christian names as they debate in private.

The Prime Minister then gave them a lecture on what he required of them, which some ministers disclosed was even sterner than the remarks he had used to Labour MPs the previous day. He said that Labour's key pledges and his Contract with Britain were at the heart of the election campaign and must be at the heart of the programme for government. We are here to work, not enjoy the trappings of power. We need discipline, unity and co-ordination." He then added: "There is hope

SENIOR Conservative MP

lied yesterday, less than a

The death of Sir Michael

week after clinging on to his London seat by 724 votes.

Shersby, MP for Uxbridge, at

the aged of 64 will mean one of

the earliest by-elections of any

Parliament and will prompt a

wave of interest from the scores of former Conservative

MPs swept away in last week's

It stunned Sir Michael's

colleagues. He was being

talked of as a likely deputy

Speaker in recognition of his long and distinguished Com-

He was thought to have died

of a heart attack and there was

inevitable speculation that the

landslide.

Education: smaller

classes, standards up Referendum: Scottish

and Weish devolution Finance: windfall tax. reducing VAT on fuel

Employment: national minimum wage ■ Crime: punishing

young offenders Health: to abolish the NHS internal market

and optimism out there, but there is a lot of hard work to be.

done in here." Then they agreed, as Gor-February, to forgo their recthe £41,443 that would have taken his salary up to £143,860; and Cabinet ministers will not take the £16,009 that would have put their salary up to £103,860. However, they have all received big increases from their wages of Opposition and Downing

Street made plain that their sacrifice was only for the year. In keeping with the furious pece of the early days of the Blair Government, it emerged that parliamentary recesses are to be shorter, with the Whitsun break later this month expected to be no more

than a couple of days. Education, Mr Blair's number one priority during the

have been a factor. ...

tion in the seat.

election since 1989.

Early indications yesterday

were that none of the "big

names" who lost their seats

last week, such as Malcolm

Rifkind and Michael Portillo.

would be encouraged to apply

for the Conservative nomina-

that a former backbench MP

or junior minister might stand

a much better chance. One

name being mentioned yester-

day was Sebastian Coe, who

However, Tory sources said

Senior Tory's death

BY OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

prompts early poll

election, is the centrepiece of one of the most ambitious Queen's speeches to come

forward in recent years.

Apart from the 22 Bills there will be a White Paper foreshadowing early legislation possibly in the coming session to introduce freedom of information. It appears likely, too, that there will be an early Bill to abolish the voting rights

of hereditary peers.

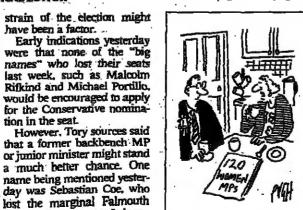
The first education Bill will away the assisted places scheme, which funds private education for brighter children, to raise £40 million to be spent on cutting class izes for five, six and seven ear olds. The second is regarded by Mr Blair as the most far-reaching attack on under-achievement

schools" that has ever been undertaken. This will include a new General Teaching autumn on setting up a Scot-tish parliament and Weish assembly; take 250,000 young people off benefit and into work, and introduce a windfall tax on the privatised utilities; and end the internal market in the NHS.

Among other measures are the introduction of fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders; bringing in a national minimum wage through establishing a Low Pay Commission; and a cut in VAT on fuel to 5 per cent through the Budget.

Speaking in Downing Street after the meeting, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minisof the legislative package. "I am looking forward to implementing that programme and showing that a different government can make a difference and a difference ence. And that is what our Queen's Speech will reflect."

Leading article, page 20



your holidays"

lost the marginal Falmouth and Camborne seat to Labour. Well, you don't seem The Tories have not won a byvery upset about missing

LETTERS ..... 21, 42

OBITUARIES ......23

partner them across all four dances of waltz, quickstep, cha-cha-cha, and five Heart operation

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

WOMEN ballroom dancers from Ox-

ford University will for the first time be eligible for a full blue when they

quickstep on to the floor in the annual

Varsity match against Cambridge

Following Olympic recognition for

ballroom dancing, the women's blues committee at Oxford has decided to

upgrade the sport from half-blue to

But for the gents from Oxford who

tomorrow

full-blue status.

for Heseltine Michael Heseltine, 64, the former Deputy Prime Minister, underwent a heart opera-tion five days after being admitted to the private Harley

Street Clinic in London suffering from chest pains. Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative party chairman, said Mr Heseltine was resting after an angioplasty operation to expand a coronary artery. The operation involves threading a "balloon" into the artery and inflating it.

Triplet secret

Anthony and Julie Cohn, parents of surrogate triplets, spoke of their joy and said they had had to keep their "blessings from God" a secret from anyone other than very close family and trusted friends in the months leading

pulling off a surprise result." the floor properly to avoid collisions. In the world of ballroom dancing, Nicola King, 20, a top orienteer who the Varsity match is as hotly debated is president of the Oxford blues as the boat race. Cambridge usually committee, said the committee had **BCCI** fraud man

ladies will qualify for a half-blue, for

the men at Cambridge there will be no

This is despite the fact that in dancing, although men and women must be equally fit, the men have the harder job. The onus is on them to set

the pace, lead their partner and read

jailed for 14 years

By GEORGE SIVELL

ABBAS GOKAL, 61, the former shipping magnate, was jailed for 14 years for his role in sinking the Bank of Credit and Commerce International tBCCn in what is believed to be the world's biggest fraud.

blues at all.

The sentence, too, is the most severe of its kind handed down by a British court. It follows Gokal's conviction last month on charges of conspiracy to account falsely and conspiracy to defraud. His

trial lasted six months. Gokal, former chairman of the Gulf Group, siphoned \$1.2 billion (£750 million) from BCC1 through offshore comthousands of bank depositors,

council in Scotland. His conviction makes him Britain's biggest fraudster in a case that may never be matched in

Members of the Oxford University "dance sport" team yesterday as they practised their steps for tomorrow's Varsity match with Cambridge

Oxford women get blue at the Varsity ball

on the sprung floor at the spacious Kelsey Kerridge sports hall in Cambridge, only a half-blue will be up for grabs. And although the Cambridge

tive edge this year.

Matthew Buck, of the Oxford team,

said: "The Varsity mutch is of en-

hanced importance this year as a full

blue will be up for grabs for the first

time. We have several champions on

our team. Although we are definitely

the underdogs, we are hopeful of

scope and complexity. He was also ordered to pay nearly £3 million from his personal assets, if he fails to do so within two years, he will have to serve another three

years in prison. Gokal is understood to have received about E4 million in legal aid to fund his fight against the charges. The case is the latest in a growing list where millionaires have pleaded poverty when brought before a court.

> Business news, page 25 Background, page 26

# Blue Peter finds sweeps' event a shade too sensitive

nputers human

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



TY & RADIO ......46, 47

WEATHER 24

THE whiter-than-white BBC children's programme. Blue Peter, was yesterday. accused of "political correctness gone mad" after refusing to film child chimney sweeps because they had blackened faces.

Obituary, page 23

By CAROL MIDGLEY

MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

Producers of the programme had planned to screen a mini-leature on a Dickensian festival organised by the Rochester and Medway Council on Bank Holiday Monday, but decided the spectacle of children covered with soot might cause racial offence. They pulled out of the Rochester Sweeps' event, in Kent, based on a tradition described by Charles Dickens in his first collection of essays,

Sketches by Boz, claiming such a feature could be open to misinterpretation.

Critics said the decision was ludicrous and was making a racial issue out of an historical event. One said: "They knew they were coming to film child chimney sweeps. What did they expect them to have - scrubbed clean skin?"

A spokeswoman for Blue Peter. Which celebrates its 3,000th episode tonight, said producers had planned to film one group of children dressed as chimney sweeps. "But when they said the children were completely blacked up — not just a little bit of soot — we didn't think it was appropriate. We asked the organisers if we could film some morris dancers instead but we were refused."

Oliver Macfarlane, editor of Blue Peter. said: "I was concerned that showing people on TV with artificially created

black faces might cause offence." Tony Stalker, of Wainscott, Kent, and a veteran of the event, said: "Morris dancing is based on Moorish culture and, of course, Moors had black faces. And everyone knows the sweeps' black faces just represent soot."

He added: "There were people from u range of ethnic groups watching the event and not one appeared to complain they felt racially offended." The May Day event marks the end of

the chimney sweeps working season when they would join local morris dancers to celebrate the coming of spring.



Kayleigh Baker, 8, at a similar event in Redditch

SPORT .....40-46, 48 CHESS & BRIDGE ...... 42 FEATURES ..... 18,19



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# Reform of party funding could help Tories recover

By PETER RIDDELL

THE Conservatives are worried by Labour's new proposals on cleaning up party funding. They are wrong. Disclosure of contributions above £5,000 and controls on overseas donations are not only inherently right, but they would provide the sour that the Tories need to revitalise themselves.

The sums involved are dwarfed by the amounts spent in any election vear in California and are less in real terms than in the 19th century here, Moreover, the Tories no longer enjoy a huge financial advantage over Labour.

Funding matters because of who

wealthy individuals who make donations, just like trade unions, do so because they are persuaded that the Tories or Labour would be better for the country. But there is a big difference between giving a few pounds, or even £100, as a membership subscription and donating a few hundred thousand pounds. The former is rightly a private matter. The latter is not. The Tories have always taken a "none of your business" attitude. They are mistaken. Big donors are courted, feted and given access to ministers (much good may it do both). And there are suspicions of favours and honours

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

odd about those not qualified to vote in Britain being allowed to donate to British parties. The dangers have been shown by disclosure over Chinese donations, and access, to President Clinton and his re-election

The main British parties have become less dependent on traditional corporate sources of revenue, such as big public companies and trade unions, and more reliant on wealthy individuals. The Tories have attracted some big individual contributions, from both home and abroad, reducing the incentive to attract more individual members and small donors to the party.

Fuller disclosure of sizeable donations, and controls on contributions from abroad, are desirable in their own terms to show that everything is above board. Labour needs to be frank itself, given its pre-election secrecy about the blind trusts financing Mr Blair and other party leaders - as well as the large amount of help it receives in kind from union officials working for the

Mr Blair could make a start by insisting that all people appointed by ministers to public posts, or receiving an honour, should have to disclose any money contributed to a political party.

Significantly, there has been no talk of full state-funding beyond the limited help given to opposition parties for their work in Parliament which should be extended. The public opposes state funding of the ordinary work of parties, which would reduce the pressure on them to broaden their base of support by seeking new members. The only acceptable change would be a tax relief or the like matching small donations.

Tighter controls would, and should, force the parties to seek

more money in small amounts Labour's success on May I was partly built on the increase of twothirds in its individual membership. The Conservatives have never given out official national figures, but no one disputes that their membership

has been on the decline, along with their organisation. A precondition for any Tory electoral recovery is a revival of the party's organisation and membership, as happened in the late 1940s. The current system of fundraising has not done the Tories any good electorally, and has only fuelled the impression of shady

Daniel Johnson, page 20

#### £100,000 for man tricked into confession

A former paratrooper who was failed for six years by the Old Bailey for conspiracy to rob was awarded £100,000 damages yesterday by a High Court jury who were told that police had fabricated evidence and tricked him into implicat-

Ramon Canale had sued Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, for malicious prosecution and false imprisonment after he spent 20 months in jail before being freed on appeal in November 1989. The police were also ordered to pay the costs of the month-long hearing, which were estimated at £300,000.

#### Telephone bill

Two councillors accused of having an affair have been asked by a council committee to pay £600 for calls made on council-owned mobile telephones at public expense. Arthur Latham, leader of the Labour group on Havering Borough Council in Essex and Caroline Warren insist that most of the calls were made on council business. The district auditor said that nothing illegal had occurred.

#### Fireman shot

An off-duty fireman was shot twice in the head at a bus stop on the outskirts of Glasgow during the morning rush-hour in what appeared to be a gangland-style killing. Ralph Sprott, 34, of Clydebank, was murdered 200 yards from his home as he stood on Kilbowie Road. A man wearing a motorcycle helmet shot him with what is thought to have been a

#### Fire strike talks

Firefighters suspended their industrial action in Essex and held talks with Essex County Council leaders. More than 900 firemen have staged seven stoopages in the county over £1.5 million cuts in the service. budget. They had been due to walk out at opin. The council has spent more than £500,000 hiring Green Goddess appliances and police escorts to provide cover during the

#### Food for flights

lifehania

in we case

WIIIA ELL (RE

Hundreds of British Airways passengers had to take food. parcels on board their long haul flights from Heathrows Terminal 4 as members of the 1.200-strong catering staff worked to rule. The airline handed out food vouchers to passengers checking in for all flights from the terminal and urged them either to eat in the airport before departure or to take sandwiches for the flight.

#### Football tribute

The world's first black profes-sional footballer who died in penniless obscurity has been acknowledged by the unveiling of a headstone at his unmarked grave in Doncas-ter, South Yorkshire, Arthur Wharton, a missionary's son who came to Britain from the Gold Coast in the 1880s, died in 1930 and remained forgotten until Phil Vasili, a writer.

#### began to research his past. Non-stop comedy

Channel 4 is devoting its May Bank Holiday weekend schedule to a celebration of British comedy and the history of the double entendre. Programmes include re-runs of Up Pompeii, On the Buses, George and Mildred and Rising Damp. Julian Clary will present Has Anyone Seen My Pussy?, a documentary on the rise of innuendo in comedy

# **Blair resists Irish** pressure to let IRA join talks By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR yesterday resisted pressure from the Irish Government to allow Sinn Fein into multiparty talks

when they reopen next month. The Labour leader made clear that Sinn Fein will not be included in talks until there is proof of a "credible and unequivocal" ceasefire. Senior colleagues said it was "highly unlikely" that the party would be allowed into talks when they reopen on June 3.

Mr Blair made his views clear during a Downing Street meeting with John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, the first overseas Head of State to meet the new Prime Minister.

Irish leaders have stepped up pressure on the new Government to allow Gerry Adams' party into discussions as soon as possible to revitalise the peace process. Mr Bruton suggested that a ceasefire, if called within days, could pave the way for Sinn Fein's inclusion in the talks.

Mr Blair, joined by Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, made clear to

Labour's poll victory could be a turning point in Britain's relations with the European Union, Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, says in today's Economist. He writes that the result is Britain's friends want. However, they do not expect the Government to compromise on defence of Britain's vital interests, nor

differences are resolved." Mr Bruton that Sinn Fein would be allowed into talks only if an IRA ceasefire was "adhered to in deed and word". Dr Mowlam said later:

for difficult issues to be-

come easier. "What matters

is the spirit in which diffi-

culties are tackled and how

"I am not sure that June 3 is possible." The Prime Minister stuck rigidly to the stance adopted by John Major in demanding a genuine ceasefire.

### Bishop apologises tor marriage ruling

By Audrey Magee, ireland correspondent

AN IRISH Roman Catholic bishop has apologised for the first time for the hurt caused to Protestants who married Catholics and were forced to raise their children in the faith of their partners.

Dr Willie Walsh is seeking forgiveness from Protestants who were obliged to sign a declaration before marriage that they would rear their children as Catholics. The Church refused to marry couples of mixed denomination who declined to sign the Ne

In what is seen as a huge shift in Roman Catholic think-

ing, Dr Walsh, the Bishop of Killaloe, in the west of Ireland, has said that the Ne Temere ruling was "contrary to the spirit of Christian generosity and love".

Writing in the May edition of the religious magazine The Furrow. Dr Walsh admits that the decree inflicted great sadness and pain on young people in love and on the threshold of

The apology has been welcomed by the Church of Ireland which cites the ruling as a main cause of the decline of Protestantism in the

leaders' commitment to inject fresh momentum into the talks, covered more than 20 issues but concentrated mainly on the multiparty talks. Although both leaders said the tone of the meeting had been friendly and raised hopes of further progress, Mr Blair is anxious to tread warily. Senior Labour figures say that Mr Blair would not be rushed into moves "just to give an artificial appearance of activity".

Mr Bruton, under pressure from nationalists ahead of his own imminent general election, raised the prospect of Mr Adams and his colleagues attending the talks. His move comes after Dr Mowtam suggested in March that Sinn Fein should be included in talks swiftly after a declaration of a ceasefire.

Labour leaders have since been more cautious about Sinn Fein's entry after the string of IRA bombings and hoaxes during the election campaign. Senior Labour figures refused to specify the timescale of any ceasefire before allowing Sinn Fein to the table, and insisted that the credibility of the ceasefire was the crucial issue.

on railways across England has made Labour adamant that no ceasefire will be accepted as genuine until there is: clear proof, possibly over a period of months, that other terrorist activities such as punishment beatings and tar-

geting have also ceased. On Wednesday Mr Blair met David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, to reassure him that he would not give way to nationalist pressure without a commitment to ending violence.

However, Mr Bruton insisted that, if Republicans could demonstrate that a new ceasefire was genuine, he saw no reason why Sinn Fein should not be at the table when talks resume in Belfast.



Cherie Booth putting the case for St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council at the Court of Appeal yesterday

# Cherie returns to work as the Blair family's breadwinner

Frances Gibb reports on an unusually well-attended appeal hearing

CHERIE BOOTH. QC, was back earning her living in court yesterday, dressed test case in the Court of Appeal on

For Ms Booth it was very much business as usual, even if she now travels to court from Downing Street. "Glad to see you're all so keen to learn about employment law," she told the waiting press corps when she arrived.

Then with the minimum of fuss the Prime Minister's wife, whose estimated annual earnings at £200,000 are rather more than her husband's, pulled out wig, gown, white collar and tabs from a black bag and "robed up" in the middle of the courtroom over her black trousers and print shirt. "Don't mention my new robing room, guys," she joked. A few light-hearted words with counsel for the other side, some congratulatory kisses, a request for water and then it was down

The case, Ms Booth's first court appearance since the election, was not one which would normally excite much public interest despite its wide-ranging

tices Beldam, Waite and Swinton Thomin her counsel's wig and gown to lead a as that the effect of the Employment Appeal Tribunal ruling against which "momentous".

Ms Booth, 42, the only woman in a row of four QCs, four junior counsel and four solicitors, is acting for St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council in an appeal brought by teachers and staff employed at a special school. They were dismissed and then re-employed under less favourable employment conditions when the school was taken over by the borough council from the local county

But the staff, with union backing, lodged an industrial tribunal claim arguing that they were entitled the same employment conditions as before the transfer. They failed, but appealed successfully to the Employment Appeal Tribunal. The appeal tribunal's ruling was contrary to domestic law, to European law and to common sense, Ms Booth told the judges.

It would have the effect of "ossifying"

employers' terms and conditions so that these could not be changed, regardless of any advantage, if their organization was taken over. Within the hour, Ms Booth ties and European rulings to demonstrate why the employees should not be entitled, as she put it, to "have their cake

and eat it.' Denmark in particular, she said, had provided a "trio of cases with profound implications for England". She ex-pounded a perfectly balanced, almost new Labour, argument about how far the EC-acquired rights directive which is at the heart of the case actually protects workers' rights. The directive did not impose general standards of behaviour throughout the European community, she said. "It gives a minimum protection and it is up to national courts to say how

that protection is worked out." Ms Booth broke for lunch with, "sorry guys, that must have been riveting for ". But there was no doubting her enthusiasm. Asked if she was glad to be back, she said: "Very!" As to whether it beat electioneering, she just smiled.

# Information Act would unleash torrent of public queries

THE main effect of a Freedom of Information Act would be to trigger a torrent of public inquiries to Government departments. It would be launched amidst a spate of publicity and the public would be told how to get the information they

A tough Act would allow the public to get straight answers about medicines, health and safety practices, environmental regulations. decisions on new roads and rail links, food safety. It might even force the Government to change the they had useful data to release - for example food safety data is gathered in such a way at present that a company or product is not

But the power of the Act however

will largely depend on the fine print and how far the Government is willing to disclose its own briefings and findings.

Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, said yesterday that work would start immediately on a White Paper. Whitehall sources last night thought it could also include data protection and privacy issues.

But it is unclear how far - if at all Ministers would lift the rules on Cabinet papers and departmental briefings. It is unlikely the block would be lifted on matters about defence, international relations, security services, the police, fairness of legal proceedings, personal privacy, commercial confidentiality and huge tranches of policy.

This week Tony Blair showed his commitment to openness by allowTony Blair is planning a White Paper to consider the options for a Freedom of Information Bill. Valerie Elliott looks at the consequences of lifting Whitehall's traditional veil of secrecy

ing a cabinet sub-comittee to be photographed for the first time. He has also given the green light for some political advisers and senior officials to speak out on policy

His real commitment will be tested therefore in the make-up of this new Bill. He might wish to make some inroads in the present exemptions list. For example, while there is a ban on work of security services, he might allow disclusure of any illegal activity uncovered by ry is given free of charge, but

them. The Government would also have to consider the question of cost, or whether to to charge at all. John Major introduced a new code offering access to information but the charges may have put people off. Last year for example only 2,033 inquiries were received, although

figure of 1,353. An hourly rate is charged depending on the time taken to find out the answer. Sometimes a routine inqui-

that was nearly double the 1995

anything taking more than five hours work, would be charged at about £20 an hour.

A pressure group however who requested complicated facts might tot up over £1,000 in fees and if a nuclear inspector or some other specialist is required he might charge some £45 an hour. Mr Major decided that if policy

advice were published then officials would not be free and frank with their views. Ministers would receive anodyne briefing papers which would be worthless as guides.

But even he was eventually per-suaded to introduce a harm test on policy papers and allow their reease if candour was not threatened. and in cases of overriding public interest the papers could be released anyway. Yet so far no piece of

information has been released in Whitehall for over-riding public interest means.

Even the appeal system at present is complicated. If a member of the public is dissatisfied with an answer at present, he can complain to the Department to review it, and if that fails he can ask an MP to raise the matter with the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Michael Buckley.

But the present code does not even relate to bodies outside the his ambit - so the Atomic Energy Authority, the Civil Aviation Authority, police. other nationalised industries, local government and quangos are

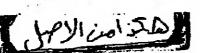
Maurice Frankel; director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, said last night "I think the Government is being much too

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Judge rules that excessive force was used

# Thief wins case against farmer who kicked him

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A BURGLAR has successfully sued a farmer who broke his jaw with a kick after catching him stealing roof states from a piggery. Stanley Wiles, 63, must pay damages to Mal-colm Phillips, 37.

Mr. Wiles used excessive force when he struck Mr. Phillips as he crawled on the ground already semi-con-mous from an earlier blow that had fractured his skull, Mrs Justice Smith ruled at the High Court in Leeds.

Mr Phillips had sued the North Yorkshire farmer for damages for injuries, includ-ing the fractured skull, a broken leg and a fractured jaw, sustained during the incident in January 1991.

But Mrs Justice Smith said that Mr Wiles, who runs a piggery at Osgodby, near Selby, was only liable for the broken jaw and the other injuries inflicted when he kicked the thief. I think he kicked out violently, more violently than was necessary

or was reasonable." Mrs Justice Smith decided that the earlier injury and tying the dazed thief to a gate. in a crucifix position were not unreasonable. She dismissed remages claims for those assaults, saying the farmer was within his rights effect ively to make a citizen's arrest by stringing him up. She said he was entitled to fasten the

artan sho



Stanley Wiles, left, who will have to pay damages to Malcolm Phillips, right, whose jaw he broke

string as tightly as he wanted, Mr Phillips was given legal aid to bring his claim. Mrs Justice Smith adjourned the

case to assess damages.
Mr Wiles was acquitted at York Crown Court in 1992 of wounding Mr Phillips with intent. In 1991 at the same to get away the farmer punched him in the face at court Mr. Phillips, from York, was given a conditional disattempted theft of slates.

After yesterday's judgment, Mr Phillips, who still uses a walking stick, said: "I am happy with the decision that some form of liability was found and that the judge agreed he went too far. To this day I still can't recall what happened on that night." The court was told how after

later and found him mum-bling incoherently with his head on his chest.

Mr Wiles told them: "I

threw a punch, or possibly two, at him. Then I grabbed hold of him with one hand at the back of his neck and the other at his backside and swung him straight round. He ended up on the other side of the passageway behind me. I believe he struck a pillar."

Mrs. Justice Smith ruled that Wiles had used reasonable force up to the point when he lashed out with his foot. She said: "He has not explained to me why it was he kicked the plaintill away. He used substantial force.

"By this time anger and indignation, provoked probably in part by the failure or refusal to answer his questions, were probably the dominant emotions in the defendant's mind. I think he kicked out more violently than was necessary or reasonable."

. Dismissing the claims for the other injuries, she said it was lawful for a civilian to take such action to defend himself or his property. I accept the defendant was very frightened for his own safety. It was very dark. He was one, and they were three. He did not know where the other two were at the time,

'I think his action was within the bounds of what was



Mourners will hear music by Rachel McGrath discovered after her death

#### Musical legacy of murdered daughter

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

MUSIC composed by a judge's murdered daughter will be played at her funeral today after her parents dis-covered it in the memory banks of her electric piano. Brian and Diane Me-Grath of Wilmslow, Cheshire, discovered the piece by Rachel. 27, as they went through her belongings after the killing. Miss McGrath was knifed to death in the car park of a public house in south Manchester last month; after she had gone to collect her partner, Kevin Forster.

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Judge McGrath, a district judge who sits in Manchester, said they were overjoyed to have found the composi-tion, which they believe shows their daughter "play-ing as she felt". He said: "She had a great love of music and was never happier than when she was playing, and this is very much part of her. It has a poignancy which will bring lears but underlines the loss of a beautiful and talented

Miss McGrath, who was a building society assistant manager, bad played piano in local restaurants and more recently became a leading player in an amateur operatic society.

A man has appeared in court charged with her

#### Kitchen hand put petrol on the menu

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

DRUNKEN Lithuanian kitchen hand who splashed customers with petrol during a protest over low wages was sent to prison for two mouths

ved for work clutching a petrol can and a portable stereo on which he was playing nationlist marching music. Diners fled, fearing that cigarettes would ignite the petrol, as staff sed to pin down Maisky, the ad Bailey was told.

Maisky, who speaks little English received E170 for up to 100 hours' kitchen and cleaning work at Le Mercury in Islington, north London. He was paid by cheque although he did not have a bank account. Alex Milne, for the prosecution, told the court He felt he had been cheated by the restaurant and this was by way of revenge."

Maisky, who came to England after the break-up of the Soviet Union, admitted affray. The court accepted his plea of not guilty to the more serious charge of attempted arson with intent to endanger

Judge Denison, QC, the Common Serjeant of London, told Maisky: "You may have had a grievance, real or imagined, about the method and amount you were paid. But when you committed this of fence you were drunk ... you caused innocent people to be out in a serious state of fear."
Stoart Trummer, for Mais-

ky, of Forest Gate, east London, said he had been granted a temporary resident's permit which expired on May 15, but was renewable. | compensation."



# Firewoman

A WOMAN firefighter who has been off sick for eight

ried about returning to work.
"I think people are big enough to accept that they made mistakes in the past and put them behind them."

Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union which backed Ms Hope said: "I'm delighted she Hope feels she can go back." Bronwen Jenkins, from the union's solicitors, said: I hope this case demonstrates to em-

in sex case wins £6,000

months after suffering sex discrimination is to return to work after winning £6,000 in an out-of-court settlement.

Jenny Hope, 31, from Bed-ford, complained that she was subjected to offensive behav-iour and ridicule after joining the Bedfordshire and Luton Fire Service two years ago. "I was a farget because I was a woman," the mother-of-two

said yesterday.

She said she was not wor-

ployers that they can take positive steps to address the problem of sex discrimination.

The alternative is paying out large sums of money in

Why it's Ace to call your son Gobnat

discovering three intruders on his farm. Wiles had triggered an alarm linked to the police

station and waited for officers

to arrive. Mr Phillips leapt

from the roof but landed

awkwardly and broke his leg

least three times, then

grabbed him from behind and

threw him violently into a pillar, which broke his skull.

He fell unconscious on the

ground for almost 20 minutes.

Later when the farmer de-manded his name, Mr Phillips

grouned and grabbed his leg. Mr Wiles then kicked him in

the face. Mr Phillips was then

tied with binder twine. The

police arrived three hours

in two places. As the thief tried

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

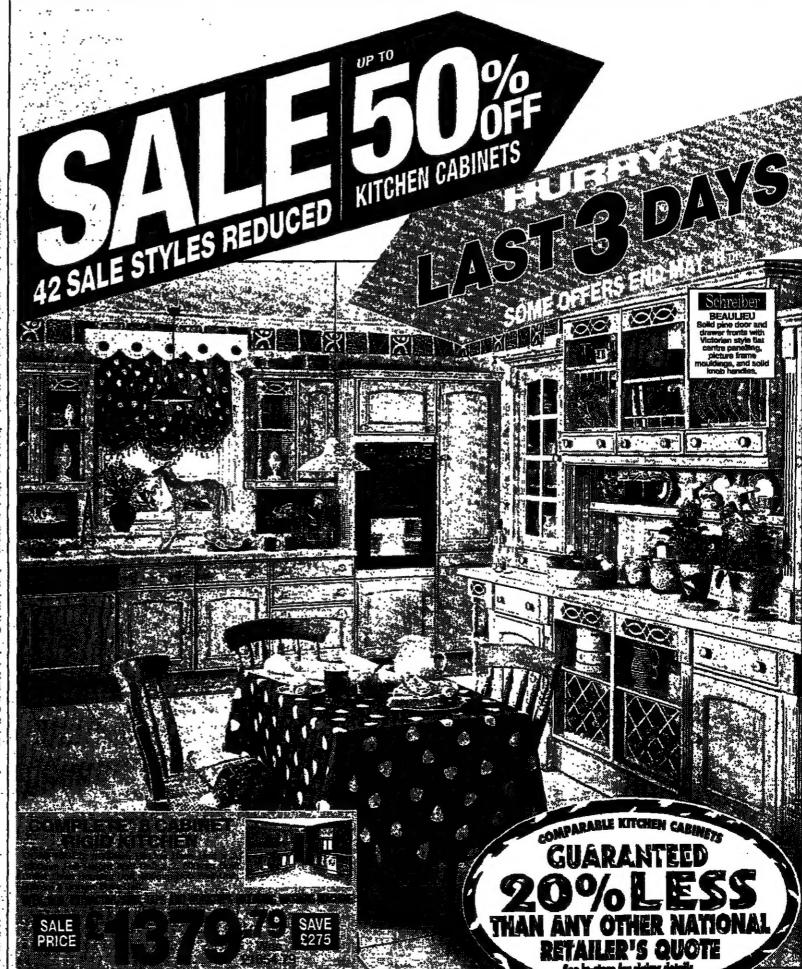
THE fashion for calling a child Gobnat, Zenith or Ace has accelerated in recent years as parents become more adventurous, according to the authors of a dictionary of first going is being blamed for parents picking increasingly

A flood of exotic new entries join traditional favourites in the Oxford Concise Dictionary of First Names, pub-lished yesterday for the first time in five years. As well as a revival of Celtic names, surnames and names of places are being used as first names along with made-up words and some that look suspicious-

ly like misorints. Patrick Hanks, co-author of the revised edition, said: Some of the names are very much a matter of personal taste. What we are seeing is a reflection of the break-up of church and state values. Previously many people chose the names of their children from a pool of about a thousand names with Christian and biblical connections."

Mr Hanks said that many of the new names such as Gobnat and Blathnat, respectively an Irish saint and queen, and Conley, the Gaelic for chaste, show a return to Celtic roots.

Classic surnames like Bronê Darwin, Drake and Lambert are recorded as first names for the first time as well as girls - Malerie, Nichelle and Lyra - who appear to have been born of illiterate pect that Hale-Bopp will appear in the next edition.



# Potters shun golden chance to make Queen look a mug

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE mug and plate industry has apparently decided that the Queen's golden wedding this year will be a dead-loss for the souvenir china trade. Manufacturers who have been happy to churn out items. for such milestones as the birth of the Duke and Duchess of York's children believe

that the market in royal knickknacks is in decline, and will be producing nothing to remind us that Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, RN, married incess Elizabeth on Novemper 20, 1947.

Wedgwood Spode and Royal Worcester have mirned their backs on the occasion. Aynsley is producing a line, but only at the request of a mail-order firm. Of the leading potters, only Royal

At Wedgwood's Stoke-on-



says she wants no fuss

Trent headquarters yesterday, a spokeswoman said that demand for royal commemorative items had declined steadily from its peak in 1981, when the Prince of Wales. married Lady Diana Spencer. unleashing a tidal wave of for that event is estimated to have been worth about

"If there was a major event like a wedding, then obvious for anniversaries, there is not the demand," the spokeswon an said.

Ken Barnes, of Aynsley, also based in Stoke, said that his firm's decision not to produce any lines of its own did not reflect any waning popu-larity of the Royal Family.

Part of the problem is that the Lord Chamberlain has not approved a logo or design for the wedding anniversary. The Queen has made known that she does not want a fuss made and, besides, the Lord Chamberlain's office has become increasingly concerned at approved designs being used on unsuitable items. Such commemorative ware as is produced will carry portraits of the Oueen and the Duke which do not need the Lord

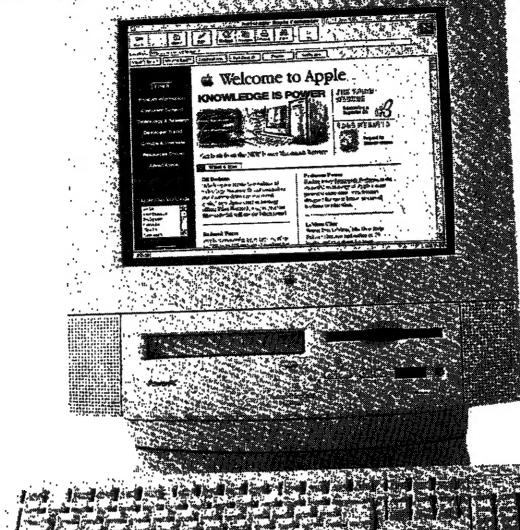
Chamberlain's permission. Steven Jackson, of the Commemorative Collectors' Society, said: "The manufacturers are making a mistake. There



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# Parents threaten revenge for primary school rape

EXTRA police were drafted on last night after parents threatened revenge against five schoolboys accused of raping a nine-year-old girl.

As teaching staff attempted to carry on lessons as normal-ly as possible at the primary school in Shepherd's Bush, there was shock and anger among parents who gathered at the school gates yesterday. One mother said: "We'll deal with this ourselves. It is estate. rules now."

Many said they were horrified, but not surprised, by the attack, said to have taken place in a lavatory block during the lunch hour on Tuesday. The school is on the edge of a sprawling council ate and has a reputation for bullying. Some parents said they refused to send their children there. Other estate residents threatened reprisals against the families of those

one aged 9, were suspended from school on Wednesday after the girl's mother complained to the head teacher

about the attack. A close friend of the girl's mother said: She is upset and angry. She sent her child off to school as normal. How can something like that happen? She is in a right state. The woman said she withdrew her own nine-year-old daughter from the school last year after a group of boys ran into the girls' lavatories and pulled her pants down.

Other parents complained about poor standards and discipline at the school, which has 182 pupils. One said a boy recently exposed himself to her daughter, who was pinned against a wall.

A lollipop lady at the school said: "It has gone downhill. The kids run riot in the streets. They are out of control and their language is filthy. The

control them. It used to be a respectable school, but now it does not surprise me that this

has happened."

A father who has a five-year-old son at the school said:
"He is always being picked on. tie has had clothes stolen. I can't believe this has hap-Another parent said: "My son is terrified of going there. I have complained constantly but nothing ever seems to get done. It is shocking that something like this can hap-pen at a primary school, but the sad thing is that I am not

Parents were told about the alleged attack in a letter from the chairman of governors. Addressed to "Dear parent/ carer", it said a "serious incident occurred at the school ... involving an allegation of sexual assault on a year five pupil by a number of other

year five pupils". Parems were

told that the accused boys had

sured that their children's education would continue as

The school, a mix of Victorian and modern buildings, is virtually surrounded by highrise flats. It draws its pupils mainly from two council estates and seven out of ten pupils are from ethnic

The head teacher yesterday declined to comment on the incident. Hammersmith and Fulham Education Authority said it would carry out its own investigation. However, a source at the education au-thority said: "It is fair to say it is not one of our best schools. It has all the problems you would associate with an innercity school."

. Counselling has been of-fered to all those affected by the incident, although the children were given no explanation for the absence of six of their friends. The girl has been seen by a doctor and questioned by a policewoman from the area's rape unit.



# Inspectors praised 'friendly pupils'

By JOHN O'LEARY

THE school was praised by inspectors in their last visit for improving levels of behaviour and giving priority to spiritual, moral and social

The inspectors, who made their visit two years ago, THE SCHOOL

with giving strong leadership in an area of social deprivation. Their report said: Behaviour in the playground is satisfactory. Relationships are sound, opportunities are provided to develop social

pupils in each year group, the primary, catering for boys

and girls from three to 11. But the intake is far from typical in other respects. Almost 75 per cent of children number of pupils - 43 per cent - have learning or behavioural difficulties, and 42 per cent live with single parents. The large numbers with special needs contribute there is a ratio of one teacher for every 16 pupils.

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# **Ever-younger** offenders test legal limits

By Michael Horsnell and David Charter

BOYS as young as six commit serious sexual abuse against other children and it is not uncommon for nine-year-olds to commit rape, according to Dr Eileen Vizard, a consultant child psychiatrist.

Dr Vizard, clinical director of a project that assesses andtreats juvenile abusers, said that since 1992 the average age of those interviewed has

dropped from 17 to 13. What has allegedly hap pened to this nine-year-old girl does not surprise me at all," she said. "We see the littler boys and there is no question that they are capable of abuse. We are talking about some

terday that the four boys aged ten accused of rape could face charges, but not their alleged mine-year-old accomplice. Dr Vizard said the age of

puberty varies in boys and generally stands between 11 and 15. We know of course that it is more than possible for boys to have a full erection before puberty," she said.
"We have dealt with boys of

nine who have successfully penetrated their victim. The difficulty is what the police and the courts do about it. At that age it's very difficult because of the issue of doli incapax fincapable of deceit). At the age of eight or nine, that what they are doing is they are very driven by sexual

The alleged incident has rompted a call from David Hart, leader of the National Association of Head Teachers. that children as young as nine be taught the meaning of rape. There could be no room for among primary school teachers in explaining sexual matters and right from

vrong, he said. He also urged every school to review its supervision of pupils, especially at lunchtime when the rape allegedly

A survey of discipline at primary schools in The Times last summer found a fourfold rise in the number of under-12s expelled since the start of

At present, sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but in practice most children are introduced to it at

Mr. Hart said: "All schools should have a programme of personal and social education, which should include sex education, and I think it is perfectly proper to expect pri-mary children to learn exactly

what rape means." Nigel de Gruchy, general union NASUWT, said order was most at risk at schools during the lunch break, when untrained mothers or other volunteers were left to supervise children.

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The Act lowering the age of responsibility

form of penetrative abuse: It is

not trivial. "It is important to realise

that up to 50 per cent of all sexual abuse of children is carried out by perpetrators under 21." She had dealt with boys as young as six.

Dr Vizard, who was consulted on the James Bulger murder case, runs the Young Abusers Project, part of the Camden and Islington Community Health Services NHS Trust in north London.

Before 1993 there was a common law presumption that boys under 14 were incapable of sexual intercourse. That was abolished under the Sexual Offences Act which lowered the age of criminal responsibility to ten. Sources at the Crown Prose-

cution Service indicated yes-

Gatwick to Miami Daily from Phus taxes, one way

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# Legal dogfight ends after noisy pets see therapist

FOUR dogs whose barking drove neighbours wild are living the quiet life again after therapy sessions with an animal "psychiatrist".

Magistrates threatened to remove the animals after Mark Bambrough protested about their continuous barking while their owner was at work. But six weeks with Jan Westby, a pet therapist, has brought peace to the street and Mr Bambrough has halted his legal action.

Yesterday the dogs' owner, Pamela Chambers, said: "I can't thank Jan enough. I was worried sick about losing them. The court would have taken the dogs away if they had carried on barking.

But the therapy has worked and Mr Bambrough is quite happy now. We have reduced the noise to an acceptable level and we have reached an agreement."

The neighbours, who claim still to be on good terms, went to court earlier this year when Mr Bambrough sought 2 noise abatement notice. He said that the constant barking during the day was making life impossible for him. his wife and two young children. He agreed, however, to an



Silent treatment: Jan Westby at work with Sophie

ing. I see dogs with varying degrees of behavioural prob-

lems and I felt these dogs

could be cured. It just takes

persistence on the part of the

owners." She stayed with the

dogs while Mrs Chambers, 43.

Mrs Chambers, a jeweller,

said: "The problem was the

constant barking when there

was no one in the house. They

would bark at everything that

pulled up at our door or Mr

Bambrough's, It wasn't fair

and I can understand him

being unhappy, but I didn't

wasn't there. It has improved

100 per cent and we are both

happy with the situation now.

The main problem was

left her home.

adjournment until yesterday to allow Mrs Westby time to try to quieten Sadie, a 13-yearold whippet cross, Bramble, an eight-year-old collie cross, and 19-month-old alsatian puppies Oscar and Sophie. Yesterday he withdrew his application at Bradford Mag-

istrates' Court. Mrs Westby has been treating dogs with behaviour problems for five years but had never been asked to help in a court case before. "Dogs that have been brought up in a very stable environment can suffer from separation anxiety leaves them," she said. "It can manifest itself in many ways. including howling and bark-

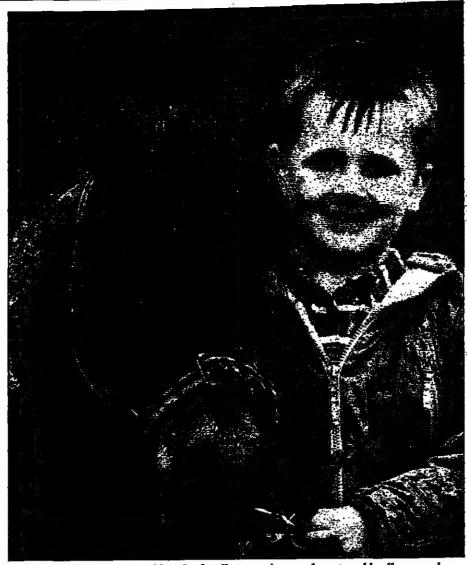
were bonded together and with me. She said the first thing we had to do was break the bonding with me and then with each other. We had to take their minds

off me not being there so we gave them toys to play with and built up the time I wasn't there from 20 minutes to an hour and then two hours, and it has worked. We have broken the bonding.

We also had to teach them commands. When they barked we let them do so a couple of times and then gave the command 'Enough'. Now, when we say 'Enough', they stop.

We have to work very hard with them and basically love them like babies. You have to speak to them and be firm, like with any child. It has taken a lot of hard work and patience and we have spent a lot more time with them than we would normally. They are four individual dogs with minds of their own.

Mr Bambrough said: "The dogs are still there, but we are not getting bothered by them a recurrence and I hope that's the end of the matter. Pamela and ourselves do get on. We have never fallen out."



Anthony Flax with Bobby, the family pet, who was burnt and badly grazed

# ple kt Pony set on fire after being tied to rail line

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO youths tied a Shetland pony to a railway line with its neck on the track, set fire to its mane and waited for a train to arrive. The animal was rescued by two passers-by who heard its whinnies.

Bobby, a five year-old, was taken from a field near the line. It suffered burns to its back and a badly grazed head after thrashing around on the track, trying to escape. The pony is recovering with its owners. Anthony Flax, 4, and his sisters Kate, 10, and Hayley, 13, of Gateshead. Police are searching for the

youths, who ran away when the rescuers arrived. Yesterday the children's aunt. Jean Nicholson said: people have to be caught - if they can do this to a little animal, they could do it to a nerson. It is unforgiveable to treat a poor defenceless crea-

Mrs Nicholson, 43, of Felling, Gateshead, said that the ropes were pulled so tight that a vet called to the scene could not use a knife to cut the pony free. She had to burn-

redefends

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£25,000 - 49,999	6.50%	<b>5.20%</b>	£1+	6.50%	5.20%
£50,000 - 99,999	6.55%	5.24%	Smart 2 Save		
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### Melting ice-sheet raises fears for low countries

PARTS of the Greenland icesheet are melting faster than they are being formed, a discovery which offers further evidence of global warming.

Researchers believe that the thinning of the ice-sheet and glaciers in the north of Green-land are already causing tiny rises in sea levels across the globe. The findings will intensify concern among some small island states, such as Mauritius, that, unless emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide are reduced, they will disappear. under the waves. Rising sea levels could also timeaten coastlines in low-lying parts of

images taken by the two European remote sensing sat-ellites, ERS-1 and ERS-2, analysed by Nasa scientists and other centres, show that the ice on 14 glaciers is disappearing faster than it is formed and thinning the glaciers by

2.5 centimetres a year. The scientists, whose findings are published in the iournal Science, estimate that the excess melting amounts to about 1.7 billion gallons annually - or just under half the water used in Britain each



day. The scientists say that this is sufficient to raise sea

levels by 0.02mm a year. More studies are planned to see if there is similar melting across Greenland. But the findings back up super-computer models of global warming, which forecast that merature rises due to man made pollution will be more

apparent near the poles Dr Norman Davis, of the Scott Polar Institute in Cambridge, said yesterday. This is pretty good evidence to show that climate change

occurring; that is has begun The significance of glacien melting was that the ice and water produced from those

# Dolphin, for a new lease of life in the bathroom





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for 89p. Harrods: Black Forest ham and asparagus country rell £2.99 each, Swiss Hilcona hollandaise sauce £2.99 ench, honey and cinammon ham £1.99 pe 100g, broccoli and shrimp salad

lecland: chicken quarters 2kg for £2.99, North Atlantic prawns 200g for £1.49, garden peas 1.81 kg for £1.49, Chinese

Couple kept surrogate triplets a family secret

THE parents of surrogate triplets said yesterday that they had had to keep their "blessings from God" a secret in the tense months leading up to their birth.

As Anthony and Julie Cohn cuddled Albert, George and Henry, they said they were so anxious about semething going wrong that they did not dare to buy any baby clothes or equipment until after the

Before they took the babies home from the Royal Free Hospital in northwest London, Mr Cohn, 31, said they knew before they were married that surrogacy was the only way that they would have children. Mrs Cohn was born. with no womb and cannot. carry babies, although she can

produce eggs.

We wanted to have children that were genetically ours and this was the only way it could happen. We knew it would be a difficult procedure. but we had no doubts at all."

Mr Cohn said. Anne Keep, a 41-year-old grandmother from Redditch

ers as gullible.

details.

dle-class areas.

Sainsbury's said yester-

day that it could not com-

was commercially sensitive

information. A spokesworn-

an admitted that prices

in several of its 370 stores,

but she would not give

Consumer groups believe it may herald the start of

attempts to increase profits

by charging more in mid-

bottle of sherry at the store

in the town's Hampshire

Centre had risen in price by

10 per cent. She paid the

extra assuming that the increase, was uniform,

When she went to the store



Anne Keep: expected

impregnated with two of Mrs Cohn's fertilised eggs last year. She and the Cohns had expected only one baby, but one of the eggs divided, resulting in three boys, two of whom are identical.

It was an enormous shock when we knew we were going to have triplets," Mr Cohn said. It was more than we miracle was found."

A tense few months ensued when the couple felt they could

anyone other than very close family and trusted friends. Mr Cohn's colleagues at the East London Hospital, where he is a paediatrician, had no idea he was to be a father.

A telephone call at 6.30am brought their anxious wait to an end. The couple were told that Mrs Keep would have a Caesarean section that morning, with the babies being born three months premature. the moment the three tiny babies were first placed in her arms was "pure joy", Mrs

The couple were adamant that they had never worried that Mrs Keep would want to keep the babies. Her attitude has been that she has been an antenatal babysitter and there has never been any suggestion they were anything other than our babies," Mr

"We never thought we would find anyone as wonderful and giving as Anne," Mrs Cohn-said. "She was very easy-going. We developed a very close relationsmp well always remain close for the rest of our lives and our

said that they had no moral objections to surrogacy and called for mothers such as Mrs Keep to receive proper payment. Under British law, they were able to pay only her basic expenses. Mr Cohn said: "At the moment surrogates don't get any money, but think it's only fair they

and labour they go through." The Cohns admitted that they were not looking forward to the sleepless nights ahead in their two-bedroom flat above a butcher's shop in Belsize Park, northwest London. The babies will be formally named at a private Jewish ceremony later already checked with religious authorities that the boys are

receive a degree of decent

remuneration for the hardship

Dr Vivienne van Someren, a consultant paediatrician at the Royal Free, said the hard work would be coping with the three babies. "They are all fine and they are now approaching the time when they would be full term. The main problem is going to be the sheer physical hard work of coping with

accepted as Jewish.



Anthony and Julie Cohn with their triplets yesterday. They described their birth as a blessing from God

# Store defends experiment in varying prices

CUSTOMERS who were told me it was an expericharged varying prices at ment, but to me it is a price different Sainsbury's stores rise. It is not right that have reacted angrily to a customers should have to pay different prices in difcompany explanation that .. terent stores." the prices are part of a

The company said that consumer experiment. They said that the superthe variations in pricing market giant, which has were part of a nationwide just announced a 15 per cent market research exercise. The reasons were being fall in pre-tax profits, was making a public pitch for\_ customer loyalty while pri-Should the customer find

vately regarding its customout the reason, argued a spokeswoman, the results spokeswoman, the results of the research would be invalid. If people knew what we were doing, it would affect the results. The whole point is that we are trying to get feedback from ment on the policy, saying it

Was part of the research designed to see whether customers noticed dispuri-ties in prices? "We cannot give further details because we do not want our competitors to know what we are doing she said. This really has to be looked at Gill Johnson, 35, of Bournemouth, found that a

from a wider perspective."
The National Consumer Council described the policy, and the company's explanation, as extraordinary. We think what is happening is that they think they can charge a bit more for certain products in some

The reply she received dear the company to cus-after complaining incensed tomers once they discovered

mustard 100g for 57p. Hay-wards silversion unions 270g for 59p. Batchelors potato savouries — cheese 85g for 59p. Marks and Spencer: Italian tomato sauce 300g for 75p. iced

coffee cake 79p, New Zealand cor's apples 6 for £1.59, quiche forraine 400g for £1.49, cooked

roast chicken breast fillets four

Morrisons. British silverside of

beef £1.79 per lb. British frying

steak £1.89 per lb. Morrisons Cumberland thick sausages

£1.59 per lb. haddock filler £1.99

Safeway, sansage rolls five for 99p, ham and pasta salad 59p per of the Young's Scoush island scampi 325g for £2.99, conference pears 25p per lb. cranges six for £1.90.

breast 900g for £3.95, New Zealand new season's lamb with shoulder bone in £3.45 per

kg. pork chops £5.29 per kg. iceberg lettuce 49p each.

Somerfield: baking potatoes

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for 79p, fresh salmon steaks £3.00 per lb, white cobble rolls

Tesco: half-shoulder of lamb

£3.19 per kg, forerib of beef £4.49 per kg, salmon straks £2.95 per ib, celery 55p each,

cauliflower 39p each, carrots

19p per lb.
Waitrose: Caesar salad 99p, butterout squash 69p per lb, bunched asparagus £1.59 per 250g, fresh chicken £5.89 for 250g.

kg, farmhouse ground weal 280g for E1.19.

shury's frozen chicken

per lb, proceedi 250g for 29p.

for £3.99.

#### in Christchurch and found areas, perhaps the more middle class ones." the same item for sale at the former price of £3.96, rather The ploy might not enthan E4.35, she was furious.

### Crabs are best of the week's catch BY DARRH GREGORIAN DESPITE wintry weather, stir fry 680g fur 99p, Iceland there is a good selection of fish this week; with prices £1.49. Kwik Save Colman's English

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fish this week, with prices remaining steady. Among shellfish, scallops are in plentiful supply, and athroom the consumer group Food and Other Matters recommend crab as its best buy of the week. Advertised promotions include:

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# Fee rises 'turn medicine into a job for the rich'

THE medical profession is in danger of once more becoming a preserve of the rich. according to the students' committee of the British Medical Association.

Tightening of budgets has already forced some leading medical schools to withdraw the subsidy they have traditionally paid to postgraduates who read medicine after a first degree in another subject. This means the fees for the five-year course are trebling from £4,000 to £12,000.

The medical schools at Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh. St Andrews, Southampton, King's College London and St George's Hospital. London, have ended the subsidy system. Others are known to be considering drop-

graduates, although in some schools the proportion is as high as 20 per cent. Derek McLaughlan, chair-

man of the committee, said yesterday that the high fees were deterring students who decided to switch to medicine after obtaining a degree in a different discipline. They were no longer eligible for a local authority grant because they already had a degree, and they usually had a student loan debt which made it difficult for them to fund the five-year medical course.

"These are people who potentially become some of the best doctors and who would be most likely to stay in the health service at a time when so many are leav"Patients really value what older students with life experience have to offer. These are students who bring wide experience to the profession.

"But with fees at around £12,000, you need to have parents earning at least £40,000 to be able to apply to medical school. As a trainee doctor, I am often contacted by people who want to apply to medical school. The first thing I have to ask them is, 'Are your

Mr McLaughlan, 35, is in his final year at Nottingham. He trained in biological sciences and worked as a teacher for eight years before deciding to study medicine. "Fortunate ly I am not affected by the end of subsidies, but if I had been required to pay the full amount I would never have

been able to become a doctor," he said. "Students who find the subsidy removed will now either have to drop the course or build up a tremendous debt before they can qualify."
Other medical students

agreed that cuts in subsidies would force them to rely on parents. Sarah Davey, 25, a junior doctor at the Royal Free Hospital. London, said: "The only people who would be able to enter the profession would be from well-off back-grounds." She graduated 18 months ago and still owes £8,000. The BMA says the average debt on qualifying is

During the last three years of training you are studying for 48 weeks a year, so there is no time to supplement the



The not-too-bright young students who populated the Doctor in the House films went out with the 1950s

# Modern intake lacks the experience of its privileged predecessors

prospective doctors should have £12,000 available to underwrite their medical education could be misleading.

The British Medical Association's medical students' committee suggested that the parents of some students would need private funds, but it was referring to the comparatively small number who already had a degree in some other subject and were switching to medicine late in their

Medical students are chang-

**VI**EDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

suited, hard-drinking medic portrayed in the Doctor in the House series ended in the 1950s. By 1979, when I fought my last general election and had easy access to statistics. more than 80 per cent of

students admitted to the teaching hospital where I was then working had had a state education. By the time I left the hospital two or three years ago, I would suppose that the

higher: few of the students came from a financially privileged background.

Just as all politicians, and most of the medical hierarchy. have remained silent about the current problems of finding adequate numbers of people who are motivated and intelligent enough to become nurses, so have the difficulties of selecting and educating medical students been hidden from public scrutiny. Today's medical student is

much more intelligent, in generation. Because of the

Nissan Almera

academic standards needed to gain entry into medical school, today's students are quicker to learn and have a better grasp of the scientific principles that are the basis of high technology medicine. However, it was striking, when sitting in a clinic with students in the early 1990s, that, although bright, they lacked the clinical experience of earlier genera-

their education. Medical students were for tunate and privileged in my day. The wards were highly disciplined and the patients

tions at a comparable stage in

them, but they had few rights. If a patient had a large liver or spleen, an interesting rash or a peculiar heart sound, they were considered excellent teaching material, available to any student assigned to the team looking after them. Nobody asked the patient: Would you mind if a student examined you?" It was assumed that their lack of privacy was a price to pay for top-

Students now have only limited access to patients. Bemany of the patients could be cured by wonder drugs in their own homes, the wards were filled with people who were suffering from the complications of the ordinary diseases that they would later see daily in general

The signs and symptoms of these run-of-the-mill complaints were readily on display, not only in the wards of the reaching hospitals, but in the hospitals where they would later do their house jobs. Now the teaching hospi-

Treating patients efficiently

one milli

recruited

not only requires knowledge but an understanding of hu man nature derived from an intense interest in people. It does not require the brain of a Balliol scholar. Whether the present system of selection is make good doctors and who would continue to practise after qualification is open in doubt. It is also questionable whether the medical schools are giving them adequate experience in their training.

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### **Doctors to press Dobson** for £1bn extra spending

Plans to close London hos

DOCTORS' leaders are to ask the Government next week for a commitment to spend as much on health as the average among the leading industrialised nations.

Although Labour has prom-ised to stay inside the Conservative spending budget, the doctors will say that unless the money can be found the health

Bringing Britain up to the average level of the other member nations in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development would cost £5 billion over five years. Britain spends 7.1 per cent of GDP on health, against the 8.4 per cent OECD average. The United States spends 14 per cent and Japan, at the bottom of the league, 6.9 per cent.

The urgent need for extra funding will be at the top of the agenda next Wednesday when BMA council members meet Frank Dobson, the Health

pitals have been frozen by the Government pending a review of the capital's health needs. The move means at least a temporary reprieve for St Bartholomew's and Guy's, both of which were to be phased out under the Tory Government's strategy to reorganise London's health pre-election promise to halt the closures and yesterday Frank Dobson took the first step towards honouring the pledge.

chairman of the council, said yesterday: "I take a very gloomy view of the finances of the NHS. There is a potential crisis. The fact that it hasn't happened yet is because our people are just managing to

keep it going." – He was optimistic, however, co-operation. It will no long that the Government had a trank God be a purchaser.

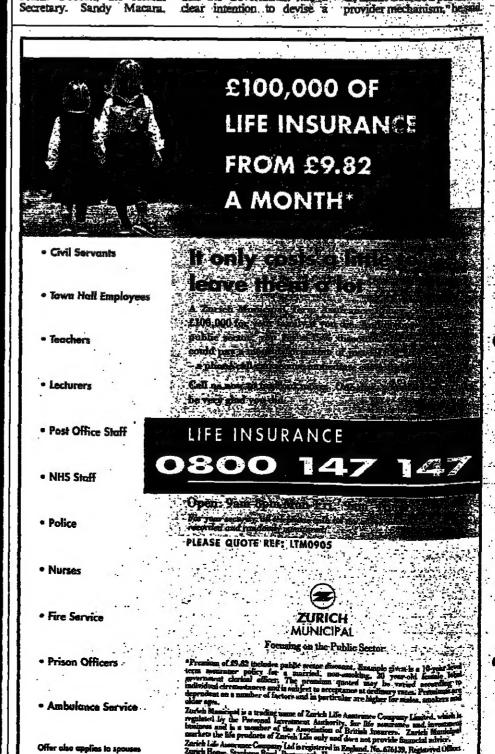
the health of the nation. -Dr Macara welcomed the Government's commitment to abolishing "the wretched in-ternal market" in the health service, but added that this would not solve the cash problem. "There is already so much that needs to be done with the money that was being wasted. We need to stop costing every single case and

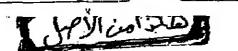
strategy that would improve

for care. The managers are bound up inside the internal market without being able to They should be out there working for public health and not just pushing paper around. We still need them in a different role and I don't

ing any savings just by changing the way the system works." ever, replace competition with

think we should be anticipat-





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Corners : E experi

Actual!

TOBACCO companies have compiled databases of millions of smokers so that they can use mailshots to promote cigarettes if the new Government fulfils its promise to ban print and poster advertising The firms are already rely-

ing on alternative promotion campaigns. They are seeking to improve their image among certain groups, such as the young, by creating labels of clothing and luxury goods.

Tobacco companies have: had long practice at outwitting

There are bans in the rest of Scandinavia, as well as France, Canada, Australia.
New Zealand and California.

The Government has yet to say whether it will outlaw sports sponsorship by cigar-ene firms. Several sporting authorities are expected to lobby the Department of National Heritage and argue against banning sponsorship worth is million each year. Labour's election victory could lead to a European

Designer clothing, luxury goods and a database of smokers' addresses are among the alternative methods for promoting cigarettes, writes Dominic Kennedy

advertising; Britain has been one of the states opposing a draft EU directive which would drastically curb promotions. The agarette companies began preparing for restrictions on advertising some years ago, when Labour estab-

lished a big lead in the opinion

polls, and have reduced their reliance on poster sites. They have huge databases of smokers who can be tempted with free samples, discounts, competitions and lifestyle magazines. This is legal provided that the smokers are over 18. Names and addresses have been collected by holding com-petitions, with prizes such as cars or foreign holidays, with entry forms that ask whether contestants are smokers. The names and addresses of people who send off for gifts after collecting coupons are entered on the databases.

Mariboro and Silk Cut send smokers lifestyle magazines aimed at those in their early twenties. When Norway banned smoking advertise ments, Carnel began selling boots using its brand name, with images of the healthylooking outdoor types tradi-tionally used to promote cigarettes. Marlboro now has a fashion store in Covent Garden and Dunhill has a range of luxury goods.

Tubacco companies spend at least 550 million a year on advertising and promotion. That includes £25 million on magazine and newspaper advernisements as well as sports sponsorship.

Cigarette were banned from television in Britain in 1964. A voluntary code of practice between the

#### such as angling as well as the World Snooker Champion-Embassy has put Headaches may spoil pleasure of

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ice-cream lovers

IT MAY not be evident from the way the loving couple in the Hāagen-Dazs but eating ice-cream is likely to give you a headache.

A survey in today's British Medical Journal found

partment of Health has been

followed since 1971 and is

There have been agree-

ments to stop pipe and cigar

advertisements on television.

to stop cinema advertising.

and to display, posters a

certain distance from schools.

agreed in 1985 to freeze the

cash spent on sports sponsor-

ship, which includes pastimes

The tobacco companies

occasionally updated.

that one person in three endured head pain after eating ice-cream. It occ-urred whether or not they suffered from migraines. It was just as common among children, who tend to call it "brain freeze". The

headache occurred only in hot weather, with attempts to provoke it in winter always failing. The survey found that the

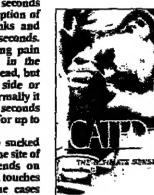
pain begins a few seconds after rapid consumption of cold foods or drinks and peaks in 30 to 60 seconds. The stabbing, aching pain is usually located in the middle of the forehead, but it can be on one side or behind the eye. Normally it lasts for ten to 20 seconds but it can throb on for up to five minutes.

Researchers who sucked crushed ice found the site of the headache depends on where the ice-cream touches the palate. In some cases toothache occurs.

There is conflicting evidence about ice-cream's effect on migraine sufferers. One study showed that it affected more than 90 per cent of those who get misested it was more common among people who did not suffer from migraines. There was evidence that an ice-cream headache could

trigger migraine.
The best way to avoid the headaches is to ensure that really cold ice-cream does not come into contact with the back of the palate.

"Most people arrive at such preventive measures without the advice of doctors," according to the report's author, Joseph Hulihan, of the neurology department at Temple University, Philadelphia. lee-cream abstinence is not



# One million women to be recruited in HRT study

ONE million women are cream form. The ingredients being asked to take part in a are synthetic or made from the study of hormone replacement therapy. The five year project, which may become the world's largest on HRT and women's health, aims to answer questions about links between the treatment and breast cancer and heart disease.

The study was launched yesterday by the Imperial Research Fund and the NHS Breast Screening Programme. Women attending 100 breast-screening clinics throughout the country will be invited to complete a questionnaire about health; lifestyle and reproductive history. HRT, which helps to allevi-

ess Doby

a spendi

ate some symptoms of the menopause and protects against osteoporosis by increasing oestrogen levels, was developed in 1940 in the United States and introduced to Britain in the late 1940s. Half of women aged 50 to 54 who now attend breast screening have used HRT at some time. Proponents include the MP Teresa Gorman and the

actress Kate O'Mara, of protection against certain There are 15 main manufac- panditions outweigh the risks turers producing 40 types of colombers. That's why we need

nirine of mares, specially farmed in Canada.

whether taking HRT affects the ability of mammography to detect breast cancer. Medi-cal opinion suggests that it may lead to cancers being missed. Dr Emily Banks, an epidemiologist working on the study, said: "In postmeno-pausal women the breast ussue is much less dense than in younger women, making it relatively easy to detect a lump on a mammogram. However, one of the effects of HRT is to keep the breast tissue denser for longer." The study will also seek to confirm whether HRT provides prosection against heart disease.

Dr Banks said doctors knew relatively little about the longterm side effects. "If someone is really suffering from immediate symptoms, then I think HRT is a very good treatment. The problem lies in its uses in the longer term: we just don't know whether the advantages of protection against certain

Screen test: from left, Professor Beral, Dr Banks and Julietta Patnick, NHS breast-screening co-ordinator study, said British women were uniquely placed to add to the sum of knowledge about HRT. Britain is the only country that can carry out this study because it is the only one with the combination of a large population and a com-

knowledge that the women of Britain can give to the world." The study has aiready started in several clinics, where the response rate indi-

prehensive national breast-

screening programme. This is

#### Little fidgets are a sign of health their first two years of life. ments, developed into infants

INFANTS who fidget less than their peers are more likely to need urgent treatment for brain damage, according to new evidence from scientists (Nick Nuttall writes).

The discovery, by Austrian scientists based at the University of Graz, could lead to the early detection of children at

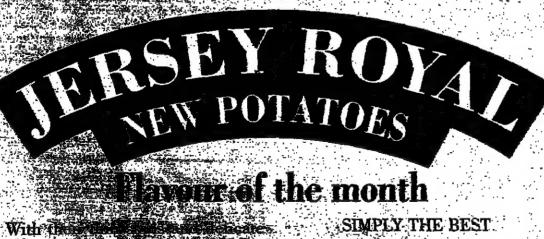
Sk. The team videotaped 130 erlands and Germany during

They were monitored for norwrithing movements, which are seen from birth to about nine weeks, and fidgety movements, which commence at six weeks.

Normal fidgeting was dassed as a stream of small movements with the neck, body and arms moving in all directions. The researchers having normal fidgety move- infants."

babies classified as having no fidgety movements, or ones of poor quality, were eventually found to have brain abpormalities. The scientists, whose find-

ings are published in The Lancet this week, say: "Our technique is simple, non-intruout of 70 babies classified as can be done in very young

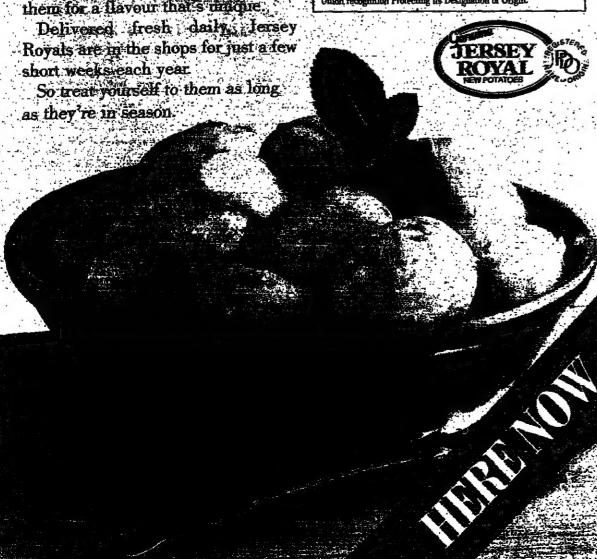


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# Media chief quits after 'low-budget' Tory campaign

one of the architects of the Tory election campaign, has abruptly resigned his £75,000a-year job as the party's director of communications.

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Mr Lewington, 38, decided to leave Conservative Central Office only days after the Tories' worse election defeat for 150 years. His decision to go came as officials acknowledged that the party's once expensively oiled fighting machine had lacked the money required for the kind of campaign envisaged by the leadership.

Reports of a £25 million war chest were way off mark. The money simply could not he raised." one senior party official said last night. The new Labour government's proposal to ban political donations from overseas could badly hamstring the Tories'

John Redwood, one of the

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Mr Lewington, a former assistant editor of the Sunday Express, is on holiday and will not return to his post. He will take a two month sabbatical abroad before returning to a career in the media. He had been expected to stay on until the end of the summer, when a new Central Office regime will have been installed after the leadership

Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, headhunted Mr Lewington 18 months ago. In the past the job has proved to be something of a poisoned chalice. The previous director Colver, had been in post for only a few months when he walked out after rows with Dr Mawhinney over negative

campaigning. Only a handful of senior

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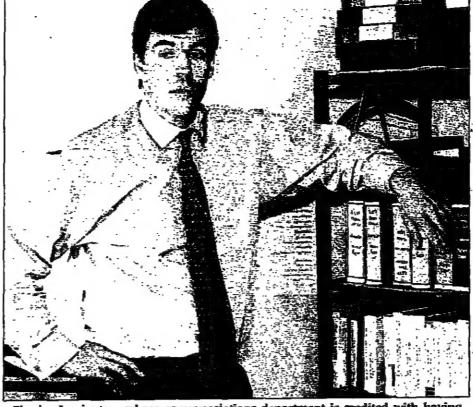
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today announce proposals for knew yesterday that Mr sweeping reforms of Central Lewington had decided not to return to his office at the election "war room" he had set up. The campaign was marred by infighting, rows over posters and advertisements, and disputes with Kenneth Clarke over the anti-Brussels tone of some of the

> John Major personally vetoed plans to spend millions of pounds on a last-gasp advermessage has been 'Better insolvent than defeated'. But not this time. It was the first election campaign we have not been able to write an open

Mr Lewington enjoyed close relations with Mr Major as Prime Minister. Communications between 10 Downing Street and Central Office had never been as good. But Mr Lewington has complained to



Charles Lewington, whose communctations department is credited with having been one of the few successes of an election campaign marred by infighting

months fighting divisions in the Tory party rather than concentrating his fire on

His contract was due to end in the summer and he was to have been asked to stay until after the leadership election. that he had enough, "He is Rumbold, Charles Hendry tired. He has done all he can. It is time to move on," said

The election has virtually wiped out the internal command structure of Central Office, which lost three of its vice-chairmen: Dame Angela

and Sir Graham Bright. A fourth, Sir Geoffrey Pattie, stood down.

Mr Lewington's communications department at Central Office was considered to be one of the few successes of the election campaign.

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**BEST CHOICE OF BIKES** 

#### Prescott pledges to tackle car culture

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Prescott promised yesterday to curb the growth of the car culture and demanded an immediate change in Whitehall thinking to reduce traffic congestion and improve public transport.

He has ordered the environment and transport departments, which come under his supervision, to make integrated transport policy their first priority. Government statistics for the first three months of this year indicate that road traffic is still growing, continuing a trend after three years in which traffic figures stayed almost constant.

Mr Prescott will preside over a review of road-building already shelved by the Conservatives and which could be abandoned. The introduction of motorway tolls and the prospect of taxes on company car parks are among the central policies already being prepared to change public

attitude towards travel However, there will be no "headlong rush into grand but unworkable projects". Mr Prescott, proud owner of a nine-year old Jaguar, admits that his own car sits uneasity with environmentalists' demands for smaller, fuel-efficient vehicles. However, aides emphasise that the Deputy Prime Minister is not trying to dictate the type of car people use, but is urging drivers to

Dorrell calls for home rule review

BY ANDREW PIERCE

STEPHEN DORRELL be came the first Tory leadership candidate to signal a major policy change yesterday when he urged a review of the party's anti-devolution stance. In a speech to the Foreign Press Association, Mr. Dongell said that Labour's plans for a tax-raising Scottish parlia-ment would put emanious strains on the Union. But we must also think forward.

The Tories had to rebuild in Scotland and Wales against the background of the Government's commitment to proceed with devolved assemblies. He said that the party would have to seek election to the assemblies to ensure that its voice was heard. Otherwise, dissent would find its outlet in nationalism.

"The process of renewal of the Conservative vote in Scotland and Wales is urgent," he said. "If it is to be achieved we must ensure that the party is developing a proper Unionist response to distillusionment

with Labour's assemblies." Yesterday the Scottish Conservatives gave their dearest indication that they would be unlikely to oppose Labour's devolution plans, which al-ready have the backing of the Liberal Democrats. Jackson Carlaw, deputy chairman of might be counter-productive to adopt a negative position in the forthcoming referendum

# Eton losing grip on government

provided 10 per cent of all MPs. This time just 18 MPs, or 2.7 per cent, are Old government, a survey of MPs' education discloses today.

its lowest since 1945. Just over a quarter of MPs. Darren Darcy, a researcher. per cent in 1959, the postwarhigh. Outside the Commons.

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Etonians, half the number of the previous Parliament, and less than a quarter of the total of \$2, or 13.4 per cent; in 1950. Just 59 Labour MPs, or 14.1 per cent, went to independent school, including the party's

two: Old Etonians: Dalyell (Linlithgow) and Mark Fisher (Stoke Central). Labour's Cabinet contains ten educated at independent schools. Professor Mellors said: "Eton, the single largest provider of the nation's governors, has slipped quite mark-

79 it educated one in ten MPs. now it is one in 25." This Parliament is the besteducated, with graduates making up 72.5 per cent of MPs. Oxford accounts for Il4 MPs, 17.3 per cent of the total, compared with 17.7 per cent in

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE playing fields of Eton are losing their centuries old role as the training ground of Britain's biggest-ever Par-

liament contains the smallest recorded number of Old Etonians as well as the lowest number of MPs educated at

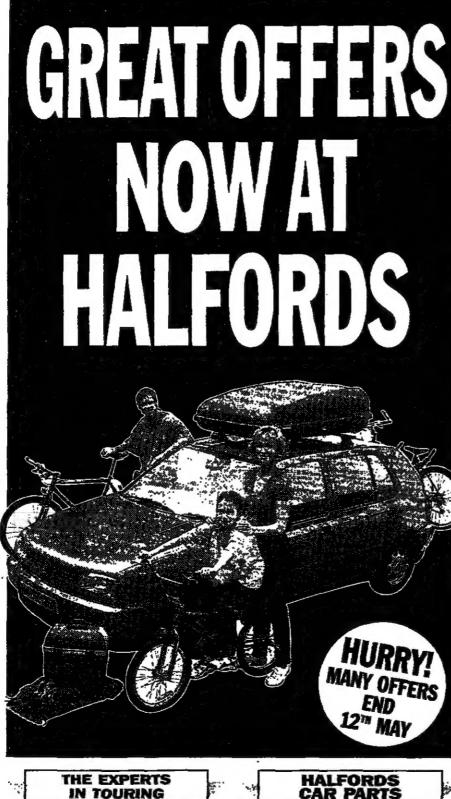
Oxford University's tleftuence is also waning. Its representation in Parliament is at

21.9 per cent, went to independent schools, according to the survey for The Times by Colin Mellors, professor of politics at Bradford University, and This compares with 39.6 per cent of the 1992 Parliament. 46.9 per cent in 1979 and 54.3 about 5 per cent of adults were

educated privately. As recently as 1970, Eton or 10.5 per cent.

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edly. On average, from 1945-1992. Cambridge has 69 MPs.



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# Ministers claim their seats at the Cabinet table



The Cabinet, from left Clare Short, Ann Taylor, Donald Dewar, Sir Robin Butler (the Cabinet Secretary), Tony Blair, John Prescott, Jack Cunningham, Chris Smith, Ron Davies, Alistair Darling, Lord Richard, Harriet Harman, George Robertson, Margaret Beckett, Jack Straw, Robin Cook, Gordon Brown, Lord Irvine of Lairg, David Blunkett, and Frank Dobson. Out of sight are Nick Brown Mo Mowlam, David Clark and Gavin Strang

By POLLY NEWTON POLITICAL REPORTES.

Trils is undoubtedly a New Labour seating plan: Tony Blair has largely adopted John Major's most recent Cabinet arrangement, but with a handful of different place-ments that reflect his own priorities and the seniority of individual ministers.

The Cabinet table narrows gradually towards either end so that the Prime Minister, who sits in the middle of the row that faces the window, can in theory at least — see everybody around it without: having to lean forward. John Major has described its shape as "coffin-like". The only chair with arms is the one used by the Prime Minister.

The priority is to be able easily to catch the eye of the Prime Minister during discussions, so the most prestigious

seats are those directly and diagonally opposite him and the ones immediately to his left and right. The one on his right is traditionally taken by

the Cabiner Secretary.

A place opposite the Prime Minister is more of a prize than one on his own side unless the seat is one of those closest to him - because it is easier to attract his attention.

in his diaries, Richard Crossman recalled how, as Secretary of State for Social Services in Harold Wilson's Government, he once turned up late for a committee meeting being held in the Cabinet room. His usual place at the table, next to Roy Jenkins, had been taken by Denis Healey.

It made him realise how

difficult it was for a minister at the end of the table on the same side as the Prime Minister to "get an oar in".

"In Cabinet the talk goes on After such a long time in opposition

between the PM and the Chancellor on one side and between the Foreign Secretary, the Home Secretary and the Defence Secretary on the to each other and those at the

other. Those at the middle talk ends of the table have to shout to be heard. There I was up

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WHATEVER acrimony may lie ahead

Tony Blair has started out in government

with the chummiest Cabinet anyone can

remember. In a dramatic break with the

formality of his predecessors he an-nounced at his first Cabinet meeting

yesterday that his colleagues were to

address each other by their first names.

The decision may have been born of

Housing . . I had to lean right back to catch Harold's eye behind people's heads before I could get in." Mr Blair's Cabinet include

used to sit as Minister of

On that score, the losers in Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, who will

Prime Minister but three seats to the left. Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary. will be on the side facing the the end of the table on his left, whereas her predecessor, Peter Lilley, had one of the best spots next to the Foreign

abour has found being in government a lapse into schoolyard-like use of nick-

be taken by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment The move represents a "promotion" for education: predecessor. Shephard, was on the same side as the Prime Minister and

four seats to the right.

Hello everyone, just call me Tony

names. John Prescott is somtimes known Prezza to his friends or Giovanni to barracking Tories in reference to his days as a waiter, Mo Mowlam is known as Dr Mo and Frank Dobson is Dobbo. According to a Downing Street source.

to the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Mr Blair's biggest problem will be separating his two Jacks sitting round Mr Blair was careful to specify that Cabinet members should address each other with the names by which they had always known each other. He allowed for lapses into formality but the future could

Minister sits on the Prime Minister's left and the Chancellor faces the Prime Minister. But the places on either side of the Chancellor have heen switched so that the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, will sit to the right of Gordon Brown and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, will sit to his left.

Mr Major's, the Deputy Prime

That means that Lord Irvine will sit diagonally opposite the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar. The two men were once close friends, but did not speak for many years after Mr Dewar's wife left him for Lord Irvine. Now they will struggle to avoid each other's gaze.

Under Mr Major, the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, was on the apposite side to the Prime Minister's far left. The new position for Mr right of Blair, is a reflection of both his personal seniority and the importance the Prime Minister attaches to Labour's plans for Scotland.

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Another to benefit from his long experience is Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, whose seat is immediately to the left of the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott. Normally agriculture is a low-ranking depart-ment and under Mr Major. Douglas Hogg sat to the right next to the civil servants who

The seat now taken by Mr Cunningham was that of the Lord President of the Council. Tony Newton, who at one stage sat immediately to the left of the Prime Minister but moved along one place after Michael Heseltine became Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Newton's successor, Ann Taylor, will sit three places to the right of the Prime Minister.

iosinggi

# Portillo, Rifkind and Forsyth on shortlist for party chairmanship

Alternatively, the Government could

Even Mr Blair has been confused. Told

that the Deputy Prime Minister wanted

to see him he was puzzled as to what Michael Heseltine wanted, he confessed

the Cabinet table and dealing with seven

Johns in ministerial posts, including his

POLITICAL EDITOR

A SWIFT route back to top-flight politics is being mapped out for Michael Portillo, Malcolm Rifkind or Michael Forsyth, three of the Cabinet ministers who lost their seats in the Conservative general election disaster.

Influential Tory figures are proposing that one of the three should: tages in appointing a leading figure be appointed Fory chairman to who could put all his energies into

begin the task of rebuilding the running the party rather than party. Its organisation and its being bogged down with Opposimorale after one of the worst results in its history.

The party chairman does not have to be a member of the Cabinet or even an MP. Given the extent of the election defeat, which followed years of decline in the party's local everument base, senior Conservatives believe there would be advantion duties in the Commons. With the Shadow team already

depleted by the huge number of ministerial losses, sources would regard the appointment of one of the three as good use of the talents available to the party. The current chairman, Brian Mawhinney, is expected to be given a leading role in the new Shadow Cahinet. Senior ministers hope to persuade John Major's successor as party leader to break with recent tradition and appoint a chairman from outside Parliament. He or she could not be a formal member of the Shadow Cabinet, but would be allowed to attend meetings when discussions about party affairs

were taking place.

In spite of their immediate despair at their defeat last week, Mr Portillo, Mr Rifkind and Mr Forysth have indicated to friends

that they still regard themselves as political players and are not yet ready to move over to the House of

All are expected to stand again at the next election, or possibly before then in a by-election, although they are not expected to be in the running for the first by-election of the Parliament, caused by the sudden death yesterday of Sir Michael Shersby. Sir Michael held his seat in Uxbridge, west London,

by 724 votes at the election last Mr Forsyth, a former chairman of

The chairmanship proposal, put forward by well-placed sources at the top level of the Opposition, could find favour with the contenders for Mr Major's position, although they are likely to avoid committing themselves to appointments in advance.

The names of all three former Cabinet ministers are being discussed in senior Opposition circles.

the Tory party in Scotland who has strong reputation as an organiser, favourite.

Four other Cabinet ministers lost their seats at the election: William Waldegrave, Tony Newton, Roger Freeman and lan Lang.

> Daniel Johnson, page 20 Letters, page 21 Obituary, page 23

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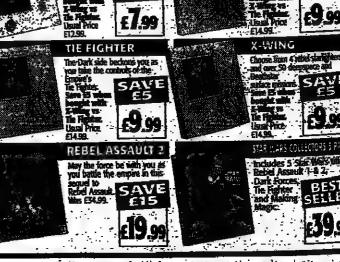
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# Bacon film hit by dispute over who owns artist's words

A FILM being made about the artist Francis Bacon, starring Derek Jacobi, may be halted by the administrators of his estate. The film's director says they are claiming ownership not only of his images but also of his spoken words.

Bacon, widely considered to be the greatest British artist since Turner, died in 1992, aged 82. Filming has begun in east London on Love is the Devil, which is being publicised at the Cannes Film Festival by the British Film

John Maybury, the direc-tor, said that a year ago he showed a draft of the screenplay to the estate administrators, who objected to the entire script. They claimed: they owned everything in the script, meaning all my cre-ative writing. They were say-ing you can't use them Bacon's words]."

Maybury said the adminis-trators — his lover John Edwards and the Marlborough Gallery in central London which was the artist's dealer — told him that he would be taking a risk if he went alread with the project The director is receiving legal advice from the BFI, which is co-producing the film with the

Ben Gibson, the head of BFI production and executive producer of Love is the Devil.

2 1500 T



Dalya Alberge

in Cannes reports

on a copyright wrangle over

Francis Bacon's

spoken phrases

yers on Monday. They have no grounds for an injunction. keen on the project. They have seen the script, and dialogue

The estate administrators have asked to see the finished screenplay. Much of it is based on interviews with

and biographer. He owns the copyright to the interviews and is an adviser to the film. He removed direct quotes the artist had made to another

A British copyright expert said yesterday that Bacon's literary and artistic works were protected by copyright, but not his casual con-

Robin Fry, a parmer with the solicitors Stephens Innocent, of central London, which specialises in intellectual property law, said: There is no copyright in a life, only in artistic works for 70 years after death. So the film-makers would have to have the consent of the Bacon estate to use imagery depict-ing his works in a film, as was the case with the recent film about Picasso."

When it came to spoken words, there was no copyright in short sentences, he said. Public lectures, prepared talks or long discourses on a particular subject might be protected in the same way as terary works.

"So, if you listen to a prepared speech and write it down, then the copyright is still with the author. The ame applies if Daniel Farson had asked Bacon his views on various matters and Bacon had held forth for some time without any interruption."



Celluloid portrait of the artist: scenes from the life of Francis Bacon, left, are being shot in east London with Derek Jacobi as the painter

point. "But if the film script is based on Farson's recollection of what Bacon said, rather than specific tape recordings in which Bacon sat down and extemporised or dictated his views, then I would say these

were not protected."

Mr Fry added that such legal disputes were generally not about copyright but about censorship. "What they usual-

or the views of one person of another's life." Maybury, whose Remembrance of Things Fast was acclaimed at the Berlin Film

Festival in 1994, said that, while other film biographies had attempted to rewrite history, his script did not. "This is the first film about Bacon. I really don't think it will be the last. He is far too significant

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1960s and 1970s and the rurbulent relationship between Bacon and his lover George Dyer, who committed suicide on the eve of Bacon's triumphant retrospective at the Grand Palais in Paris. Maybury emphasised that it was not a gay film and that

Nobody from the Marlbor-

Fans block road for view of The Maestro

THOUSANDS of Michael Jackson fans blocked the palm-lined Croisette in Cannes yesterday, stop-ping traffic and trampling through flowerbeds to get the briefest glimpse of the pop star at his hotel win-dow.

He had flown in to Cannes for the premiere of a 20-minute film called Ghosts and was immediately whisked to the Cariton hotel. From time to time, be emerged from an upper floor to wave to his fans.

One young man from Grenoble, Philippe Labartino, said "It's a kind of a dream. We need a dream." He came to Cannes just to stargaze: his hunt the day before lasted four hours but earned him sightings of Bruce Willis and Isabelle Adiani. Another fan.

Berneval, from Paris, was prepared to wait three hours for Jackson. Seeing him twice yesterday was not enough; she stayed put, despite being jostled by the crowds. "He was

dressed in black with a red

wind manul.

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mask on his face,' she said. Ghosts is co-produced by Jackson and directed by Stan Winston, who worked on Aliens. The story plays on past controversies involving Jackson: a mob of angry parents. led by the Mayor of Normal Valley, make their way to an eerie mansion to confront the "mysterious occupant", The Maestro. who has been entertaining their kids in a frightening fashion that they don't quite understand". Jackson plays five roles, including The Maestro.

Jackson album, page 35

# Oldman censors his X-rated life for debut script



day of the personal experiences of violence, drugs and alcohol that compelled him to write his first film script. Nil by Mouth, a harrowing story of social decay, had its European premiere vesterday at the Cannes Film Festival

and is tipped to win prizes.

Oldman looked close to tears as he said that writing the script had helped him to come to terms with his childhood in south London, which was overshadowed by poverty and his violent, alcoholic father. Oldman himself has undergone treatment for addiction to drink. The sins of the father are visited on the son." he said. We are a lot sicker than we think we are. Most people need therapy."

the 39-year-old actor, renowned for performances including President Kennedy's assassin in JFK and a deranged drug dealer in True Romance.

Oldman said that some of his childhood had been too disturbing to depict in Nil by Mouth. He could not put on screen the moment his father beat his mother with a steel-toed boot before trying to drown her, he said, but "I watched it all".

He considered shooting the film in black and white, but wanted to avoid any hint of nostalgia. "I didn't want it clean and too pretty. I wanted it how I remembered it: grey. The sun never shone. If the sun came out, I didn't shoot.

I said, 'I do not want the sun in this

Oldman described the characters as an amalgam of those in real life: among his father, who "destroyed his liver after years of drinking whisky from 9.30am to late at night, his nephew and his brother-in-law. Oldman said: They've seen the film and were very moved. It's from my heart. I hope I've not disgraced them."

He described his mother as an heroic woman, who took two jobs — one as a pub singer — to support the family after his father left home. The film includes a recording of her singing a song from the musical Showboat. "She sang it at my wedding," Oldman said.

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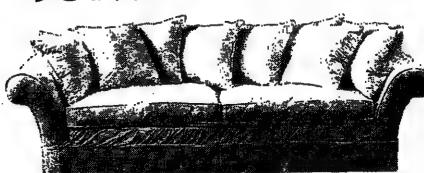
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BY ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

sued a warning yesterday that Nato's plans to expand eastwards had provoked the most serious dispute between Russia and the United States since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. He said on Russian television: "Since the Cuban cri-

sis, no such acute an issue has existed in relations between Russia and the United States, and this concerns Russia's interests to such an extent that everyone, including the Europeans and Americans, should give it serious thought."

During the Cuban missile crisis. Soviet nuclear brinkmanship caused the world to hold its breath, as President Kennedy battled with Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Communist leader, to prevent Moscow from installing nuclear missiles on the island.

Western diplomatic sources said that the Russian leader was resorting to strong rhetoponents. He is under pressure from Communists and nationalists who argue that he is selling out his country's

President Yeltsin's comparison with 1962 precedes next week's crucial meeting between Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, and Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, to try to agree a special security charter between Moscow and the

The President's remarks were also seen as part of Moscow's attempts to gain last-minute concessions on the proposed agreement between Russia and the alliance, which



the Nam summit in Madrid in July, when Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary will be invited to join the

As if to confirm his twintrack approach of berating the West over Nato expansion plans and reaching a deal on a security partnership with the alliance. Mr Yeltsin said that an agreement with Nato was nearly ready. He told reporters at a Victory Day ceremony in the Kremlin that he might join the talks in Moscow next week between Mr Primakov and Señor Solana. "About 98 per cent of the document is ready," Mr Yeltsin said.

Nato sources said that although a deal with Russia was "very close", and should be ready in time for a summit in Paris at the end of this month, final agreement was being held up by Moscow's attempts to stop the alliance from constructing any form of military infrastructure on the territory of new member states. The sources said a number of compromises were being dis-cussed with the Russians. There was no question of Nato agreeing to abandon plans to create basic infrastructure on

the territory of the new East-

the Moscow landscape.

which has been proclaimed a

year of reconciliation and con-

cord in Russia," he added.

President lays stone

for church rebuilding

ing President Yeltsin yester- such places."

laid the foundation stone

for the reconstruction of an

ancient Moscow church that

The ceremony marked the

latest in a series of efforts by

Russia's leadership to restore

religious monuments wrecked

by the Communists. Patriarch

Aleksi, the head of the Russian

Orthodox Church, led prayers

at the site of the future chapel

of St Boris and St Gleb, the

Orthodox churches used to

stand here in Arbat Square

and they are well-remembered

by Moscow believers," he said.

adding: "May God grant all

people of the present and

"In the past, more than ten

first Russian saints.

was destroyed by Stalin.

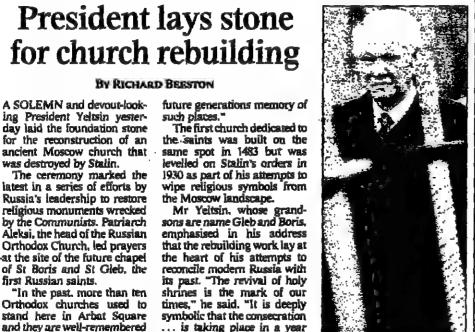
ern European members. One compromise under discussion, however, was to make "a written declaration that Nato has no plans for major construction of new bases". This would be aimed at reassuring Moscow that Nato did not intend to build bunkers for tactical nuclear missiles or new garrisons for the permanent stationing of alliance

Nato has already included in the draft text of an agreement a declaration that it has "no intention, no plans and no eason for deploying nuclear weapons" on the territory of the new member states.

If the negotiations in Mos-cow on Tuesday are success-ful, a "Nato-Russia Act", laying down the new strategic partnership between the alliance and Moscow, will be signed in Paris on May 27 by Nato's 16 heads of government and Mr Yeltsin.

However, opposition lead-ers in Russia have denounced the proposed agreement and have condemned Mr Yeltsin's Government. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, said: "They have lost on every front. They are trying to fool the country and ignoring the national interest."

As a counter to Nato's expansion plans, Russia has been trying to improve relations with former Soviet republics. Negotiations are under way for economic and political union with Belarus yesterday President Yeltsin presided over the signing of a peace memorandum between Moldova and its breakaway Russian-majority



President Yeltsin at the ceremony yesterday



President Chirac, at an Armistice Day ceremony yesterday, launched a forceful electoral attack on France's Socialist opposition. He has taken to using many of the familiar Blairite phrases invoking "trust" and "hope"

# Blair wins French politicians' vote

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE cult of Tony Blair in France, where politicians of all shades are competing to make electoral capital out of Labour's: landslide victory, reached unprecedented levels yesterday when the British Prime Minister made it to the front cover of one of France's premier celebrity magazines.

VSD, a glamour journal more used to feting the likes of Gerard Departieu and Juliette Binoche, featured the Blairs en famille alongside the headline "The Blair Revolution: Why his style makes Juppé and Jospin dream". It was the first time in living memory that a British Prime Minister has been accorded such an honour.

Mr Blair's thumping success is the most interesting thing to have happened

so far to the French legislative elections, which have been widely dismissed as Juppe, the Gaullist Prime Minister, and Lionel Jospin, leader of the Socialist Party, have been quick to profess ideological kinship with Mr Blair.

In a long article published this week. M Jospin insisted "the victory of the Socialist Party in France in three weeks' time, coming after that of Labour, will prove that there exists between us a Modern Left. The future of Europe will be changed by it."

M Juppe's centre-right coalition, however, has pointed out that new Labour is genuinely modern, having abandoned the Socialist principles still held dear by

many on the French Left. "It is true that President Chirac's slogan Less govern-ment, less taxes', might as well be Tony Blair's "noted an editorial in Le Nitibel Observateur magazine. A cartoon in Le Monde showed not only M Juppe and M Jospin, but also President Chirac declar-ing simultaneously "Cest mei, Tony Blair" — Tony Blair, that's me.

But, as has become only too clear since.

M Chirac announced the snapelection in two rounds for May 25 and Jone 1, none of them is Mr Blair, at least not in the sense of being able to galvanise a disgranted electricate. Up to haif of the least in the least of the l French voters, according to the latest polls, are resolutely uncathused by the

### Finance police seize £500m from 'hard-up' Sicilian Mafia suspect

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME AND FRANCESCO BONGARRA IN PALERMO.

SICILIAN imance police ye terday seized property and assets worth well over £500 million from a suspected Mafia boss, the largest such haul since the crackdown on organised crime began four years

Police said Vincenzo Piazza, 66, a building tycoon long suspected of being a highly placed figure in the Mafia, had acquired a business, land and property empire of "dizzying" proportions. He was arrested in 1994 and is still in prison awaiting trial on charges of involvement in Mafia operations. Police said it had taken them the three years since Signor Piazza's

arrest to trace all his holding The confiscated "assets" include 64 palaces, containing 2.500 offices; 122 warehouses; thousands of acres of agricultural land; factories and industrial units; 131 flats; £5 million of shares in a bank at Trapani; ten villas; ten school buildings; and a large estate near Siena. Signor Piazza also owned 18 cars, two of which

(plus a BMW motorbike) were given back by police because they were registered in his sons' names. Vincenzo Visco, the Finance Minister, congratulated the Palermo police on a "brilliant operation" and described the amount confiscated as unpre-

cedented. "It defies belief that one man should have accumulated property of such incredible proportions," he said. Signor Piazza first came to

the attention of the authorities in 1989 when he declared an annual income for tax pur-poses of under £1,000. This eemed at odds with his lavish lifestyle," a police spokesman said drily. Signor Plazza was subsequently named as a Mafia boss by two leading pentiti. or supergrasses, Tommaso Buscetta and Calogero Gand

The crackdown on the Mafia began in earnest in 1992. after the numbers of Giovanni Falcone, italy's popular anti-Mafia judge, and his succes-

sor, Passe Borsellino. In 199 Salvator Toto Raise, the Malia boss of bosses was arrested, 'and last year his' successor, Giovanni Brusca, was also tracked down and

Police said they were also swestigating links between Signor Piazza and Vito Ciancimino, the Christian Democratic Mayor of Paler mo in the 1970s. ☐ Suspects held: Police in

Palermo yesterday said they had arrested I suspected leading members of the Mafia's Corleonesi cian in what could prove a further severe blow to its supremacy in the world of organised crime, (Reider)

#### Toll mounts in China air crash

Beijing: A China Southern Airlines Boeing 737 crashlanded during stormy weather in the southern city of Sherzhen, killing at least 10 people and injuring 20, local officials said. The airliner was on a scheduled flight from the southwestern city of Changging to Shenzhen, a booming city on China's border with

Hong Kong. The cause of the crash, the first reported in China for almost three years, was unclear, but one airline officialsaid the landing altitude of the plane was wrong. The airliner burst into flames on hitting the tarmac. The death toll was expected to rise. Ambulances ferried dead and injured passengers from the airport to hospital (Reuter)

#### Circus tiger kills

Carrolitown, Pennsylvania: A its trainer in front of a circus audience of at least 200 children and their families, killing. him and dragging him round the ring by his neck (AP)

#### Suicide plunge

Scoul: The 26-year-old wife of a defector from North Korea amped to her death from an month old baby in her arms, in an apparent suicide. Sout Korean reports said. (AFP)

#### Bullet proof

York, Pennsylvania: Michael Hughes, 30, who was shot as he tried to burgle a house, sat on his front porch with a bullet between his eyes waiting until police arrived authorities

#### Blast victims

Istanbul: One child was killed and four were hurt as a bomb ing range in Turkey's eastern province of Eizurum exploded when they took it home, sec-unity officials said. (Reuter)

Gandhi joins up



Italian-born widow of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, has joined his Congress party. Since his assas nation in 1991, she had refused to enter politics. (Reuter)

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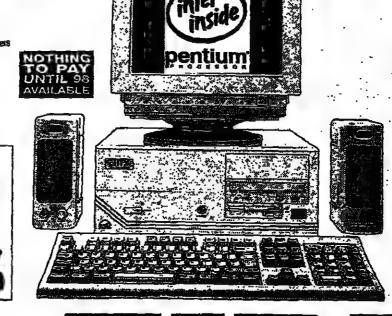
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# Angola war fear rises as tanks go to Zaire border

SEVERAL divisions of Ango-policy and killed at least 200 lan government troops, suptanks, were last night massing along the Zaire border close to Matadi, the port which is Kinshasa's lifetine. Diplomats were concerned that the Angolans might be ordered to jointhe rebels of Laurent Kabila in

an attack on Zaire's capital. "If the two sides in Angola get any more involved in what is happening in Zaire then the civil war could kick off again for real in their own country," said a European ambassador. A fragile peace agreement was reached in Angola only last

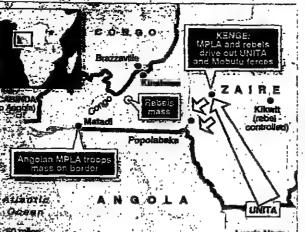
Angolan government soldiers supported Zaire's rebels and routed forces of President Mobutu and his allies in a battle at Kenge, 125 miles east of Kinshasa. Soldiers from Jonas Savimbi's rival Union for the Total-Independence of Angola-have crossed from his. territory in Lunda Norte province to join up with Zairean sovernment forces.

Reports from Kenge said yesterday that Unita had adopted a "scorched-earth" people indiscriminately, including ten local Red Cross workers, after flying in from Or Savimbi's territory.

This was confirmed by members of Mr Mobutu's personal entourage, who said that Unita troops were under orders to "take no prisoners" in their efforts to hold up the

corridor to Kikwit and the diamond town of Tshikapa. close to the frontier with Unita-held Angola. Officers from the army of

the former Marxist Angolan vernment have been seen in Kisangani, which fell to Zaire's rebels two months ago. Closer to the front line, now 80 miles from Kinshasa, sources rebel advance and open a said that Angolan government



engineers were helping the rebels cross bridges blown over the River Wamba and were also in command of armoured vehicles.

President dos Santos of Angola is close to Mr Kabila and sworn enemy of Mr Mobutu, who gave logistical support to Unita for IR years. Yesterday Mr Mobutu, 66, met the Presidents of Congo. Gabon and the Central African Republic in Libreville amid continued speculation that he would not return to Zaire, and would end his 32year rule by fleeing into exile. As a man whose power over the past ten years has derived from his ability to wreck

opposition movements by un-

leashing his own troops to loot

and destroy Kinshasa, Mr

Mobutu is more likely to enjoy

the spectacle of a conflagration in the capital.

London: Five hundred British troops and support personnel are ready to launch an evacuation from Zaire, the Foreign Office reported, it estimated 970 Britons, Commonwealth and European citizens might have to leave.



A mother and baby wait for food at a Catholic clinic in Kinshasa yesterday as the rebel advance continued

### Israel claims use of force justified on terror suspects

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday defended its use of force on terrorist suspects, claiming the practice was justified for security forces having to deal with bombings and kidnappings.

The response came after Wednesday's examination of Israel's interrogation techniques by the United Nations Committee Against Torture, whose members questioned whether severe shaking of prisoners and subjecting them to long periods of loud music, cold air and being tied up in painful positions amounted to torture.

More than 20 Palestinians have died in Israeli prisons since 1987. Last November the Israeli Supreme Court lifted an injunction against the use of force in the interrogation of Palestinian detainees in certain cases, including potential suicide attacks. Since then, critics have accused Israel of approving torture during investigations.

Moshe Fogel, a spokesman for the right-wing Govern-ment, said last night that Israel had foiled 90 planned

attacks, including ten suicide bombings in a two-year period ending last December. These were the result of questioning suspected terrorists during that period." Mr

During the UN session in Geneva, where Israel is one of a number of countries whose conduct is reviewed periodically, Peter Thomas Burns, the committee member specialising in Israel, said that the country seemed to think that detainees could be modified depending on circumstances, while the standards of the Convention Against Torture were absolute.

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Mr Fogel said that the committee's report was biased and failed to take into account "the fact that Israel lives in constant threat of terrorism". ☐ House seized: Jewish settlers vesterday took over a newly acquired house on the Mount of Olives in occupied east Jerusalem in a move that infuriated Palestinians, The house was sold by an Armenian archbishop.

### **Jews honour Swiss** guard who blew whistle on bank

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A TIMID Swiss nightwatchman who saved Holocaust-eraledgers from a shredder at his Zurich office has been embraced as a hero by America's powerful Jewish community.

money have poured in for Christoph Meili. 28, ever since he flew in to New York this week under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress. Mr Meili's story began in January when, on his nightly

rounds as a guard at the Union Bank of Switzerland, he stumbled upon dusthins filled with ledgers, letters and state-ments of account of the bank's shredding from. Of Josef examination, he found that it date back to the 1930s and 1940s and to pertain mainly and to Jewish clients.

Speaking yesterday at a gathering here, he said: "I offered him a full-time job - thought to myself. Wan a as a rightway hman. terial." He took several arm- sure from the United States and later passed them on to a Jewish cultural organisation

he was inspired to save the documents after having seen Schindlers List: A tew movie. And that is how, when

ATT.

realised I must take the responsibility, that I must do

The watchman, a father of owerful Jewish community.

Offers of jobs, homes and cused him of violating its secrecy laws. He was questioned by the Swiss police. who are believed to have handled him roughly, ostracised by friends and shunned by other prospective employers. He and his family also received a number of death

> The World Jewish Congress, elected to his plight, arranged to fly him and his family to New York. He has been feted at receptions in the city and in Washington. Edgar Broniman, the chairman of the congress and president of the Seagram company, has

minutel This is historical ma- Buenos Alses: Under presuls of documents to his car and Israel, Argentina was said last night to be on the verge of naming a commission to look into its Nazi des during and Mr Meili has disclosed that after the Second World War. A commission of key Argentinian officials and foreigners Schindler's List: A few would be on the commission, months before, I had seen the according to sources, who said a formal announcement was I saw these documents, I imminent (AFP).

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# Yemen tests wisdom of a Solomon with claim to Queen of Sheba

The Queen of Sheba:

almost 3.000 years ago, but she is as bewitching to modern historians as she was to King Solomon. And she has left a legacy that has so divided two neighbours that only Solomon would be able

to answer the all-important

question: did the Queen of

Sheba come from Yemen or

Emperor Haile Selassie, the "Lion of Judah". insisted that the Queen, known in Ethiopia as Makeda, married Solomon and was a founding member of the Ethiopian royal dynasty. She is said to have lived at Axum. a site now being investigated by three teams of archaeologists who claim to have found coins, bones and

other relics of her reign. The

more popular and familiar claim comes from the other side of the Red Sea.

The Yemeni Government opening up the rugged and remote country to international tourism as well as Western business and communications, insists that the legendary ruler, known in Arabic as Balkis or Bilkis, has the sanction of the Koran as well as popular support for her genealogy. Her name is now prominent in all Yemen's tourist brochures, and the main hotel in Sanaa, the

capital, is named after her. She is certainly Yemeni. crossed Ethiopia on her way back from Jerusalem," Dr Hussein al-Amri. Yemen's

Commercial hopes are adding to rival claims from both sides of the Red Sea about the origins of the beguiling biblical beauty, Michael Binyon reports

He cited extensive research by two recent doyens of Arabic at Oxford and Cambridge, the late Professor Freddie Beeston and the late Professor Bob Serjeant, who spent time researching Yemeni epigraphy. Each country advances whatever historical evidence can. Ethiopia daims a tradition going back to Josephus, commonly accepted in Europe in the Middle Ages,

that she was African. At

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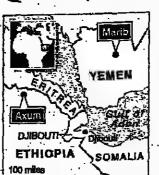
shown with an African servant, and a persistent legend gives her a malformed foot or even the hooves of an ass.

Legend says that she hid her feet in a long gown, but Solomon was said to have been so curious about this that he had a glass floor built before his throne and Bilkis. thinking that it was water. raised her skirt to cross it and revealed that her legs were

gave King Solomon gifts of gold and spices, products for which Yemen, then an important trading centre, was famous. Until recently the country, racked by civil war for almost a generation and then under various Marxist governments, would not allow in Western archaeologists; now they are arriving in droves to search for lost remains.

The Oueen is mentioned little in the Bible: Il verses in the First Book of Kings. reneated in the Second Book of Chronicles. The story is believed to come from Jewish

Ancient legend makes an enormous difference to a country's tourist potential: Egypt markets its history



almost entirely in terms of Tutankhamun and Queen Nefertiti. But so vague is the history of the 10th century BC that others are now entering the crowded field: Egypt wants her for its own, as do Iran, the United

caravan routes through their territory.

American excavations in Yemen began in 1952, when Wendell Philips, the explorer. began investigations into the Moon Temple of Sheba at Marib, the town mentioned in the Koran as being her seat where she is said to have built

an ancient dam. Tourism has been the spur that has levered reluctant agreement by many governments for Western scholars to mount expeditions. Perhaps the most famous search is for the legendary site where Noah's Ark came to rest, reputedly on the slopes of Mount Ararat in Turkey.

Queen of Africa, page 20

# Consortium woos Taleban to tap energy bonanza

From Christopher Thomas in kandahar

AN INTERNATIONAL oil and gas consortium is renting an office in the impoverished mud city of Kandahar, headquarters of the Taleban Islamic militia. It confirms the driving force behind Afghani-

stan's latest war: money. The consortium is seeking a stake in what may be the world's last land-based oil and gas bonanza. Afghanistan excites no interest in international boardrooms, but the Central Asian states to its north are a multibillion-pound prospect. They contain vast, untapped reserves of oil and gas; Afghanistan, cursed as ever by its location, is in the way.

There is a clamour by multinational corporations to build a 1,000-mile oil pipeline from Turkmenistan in Central Asia through Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Arabian Sea, from where crude could be taken by tanker to East Asia. There are also plans for a natural gas pipeline to supply energy from Central Asia to

Pakistan and, perhaps, India. This explains the intense competition among foreign governments and multinafional corporations for regional influence in this new "Great Game". The gas and oil reserves are many times larger than those of the North Sea and could transform some of the poorest economies of Asia.

The world will begin suffering a decline in oil production within 20 years, a leading scientist is warning

rich and developing coun-tries is accelerating so fast that oil-producing nations will not be able to keep pace by 2015, Craig Hat-field, of the University of Toledo, says in the journal Nature. The geologist says that discoveries are failing to keep pace with demand which grew by 16 per cent

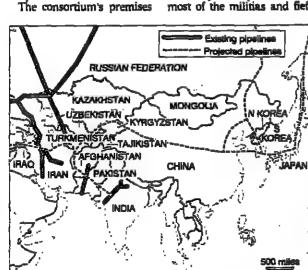
in Kandahar were guarded yesterday by a gunman in the garden. The building, behind high walls and a large rose haven in a street of rubble. and workmen were transforming the premises into a comparatively luxurious statement of foreign ambition. The point of moving to this almost medieval town is to remain close to Taleban in the hope of securing contracts, and to impress on the Islamic student army the need for peace before construction can begin.

Taleban, which rules threequarters of the country, has probably received private Saudi money to help it to defeat most of the militias and fief-

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dons that have kept the country at war. It is also backed by Pakistan. Both countries would benefit substantially from construction of the pipelines. Never has such a rag-tag fundamentalist militia been so (Nick Nuttall writes). Demand for energy from vital to such powerful interna-

tional economic interests. Delta Oil, of Saudi Arabia, has entered into a partnership with Unocal, the American oil and gas giant, to build pipelines at a cost of £2.7 billion. The scheme would take three years to complete. Rival influences, however,

are determined to scuttle the project. Russia fears it would lead to foreign economic domination of a region it regards as its backyard. That partly explains why it provides military assistance to General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern Uzbek warlord and Taleban's main armed rival.

Iran, which stands to lose oil markets if the pipeline is built, also supports General Dos-tum. The US Administration favours the pipeline because of its potential impact on the franian economy. That ex-plains its earlier public enthusiasm for Taleban, muted now because of the militia's exremist Islamic credentials.

Taleban is impatient with Unocal-Delta's insistence that there can be no progress without peace. It is threaten-ing to hand the contract to Bridas Corporation of Argentina which was originally expected to win the contract. In reality, however, neither of the rival bidders can hope to raise funds for the scheme until Afghanistan has a national, bona fide government essentially, until General Dostum is defeated.

There are many who believe that Talehan was created three years ago by vested interests to establish peace in Afghanistan and open access to Central Asia's natural resources. It seems a far-fetched theory, but clearly the hopes of powerful foreign forces are pinned on a Taleban victory over the last of

Leading article, page 21



a densely populated area of Karachi yesterday. An inquiry has been ordered.

### Seven die as jet discards fuel

A PAKISTAN Air Force jet jettisoned its fuel tanks over a residential area of Karachi yesterday, causing a fire that killed at least seven people

and injured six. police said.
The pilot of the Mirage fighter, which landed safely at an air force base, dumped the FROM REUTER IN KARACHI

tanks after the plane developed engine trouble on a routine training flight, a military spokesman said

Witnesses said fire broke out when one of the fuel tanks fell on Gharibabad, a heavily populated residential area in Karachi's Central District. An air force statement sald that the pilot had to jettison tanks to avoid crashing on a populated area and causing a major catastrophe. It said an inquiry had been ordered. Most of the injured were in a critical condition with 50 to 60

### Jailing of abbot reasserts China's grip on Tibet

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE jailing of one of Tiber's supreme monks this week marks China's determination to dominate events in the Himalayan state. The sentencing of abbot Chadrel Rimoche also signals an end to a brief Chinese attempt earlier this decade at a reconciliation with the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual and temporal leader,

In an announcement this week Beijing said the abbot of the Tashilumpo, one of Tibers main monasteries and the base of the Panchen Lama, the second-highest Buddhist lead-er after the Dalai Lama, had been jailed on April 21 for "splitting the country", stirring up trouble among ethnic groups, leaking state secrets, and for "colluding with the Dalai Lama". He was jailed

The Dalai Lama's government-in-exile in India yesterday condemned the sentence. The abbot was arrested last year and charged, along with two monks, with giving the Dalai Lama a list of 25 names of children who could be reincarnations of the tenth Panchen Lama who died in 1989. The Dalai Lema designated one of the boys as the

and the abbot disappeared.

By trying Chadrel Rimpoche, and his two accomplices, in a court in Xigaze, where the Tashilumpo is sited. China has now put to rest charges that its enemies vanish into a gulag. But Beijing's action signals that it alone will determine Tiber's fate, in accordance with its insistence that the region has always been a part of China. In reality, its control over Tibet was negligible from the 17th century and non-existent be-

ween 1912 and 1949. In 1964 the tenth Panchen Lama was detained for 14 years after he warned Beijing that its colonial policies were causing misery in Tibet. On-his death in 1989, Tibetans mourned him as a great monk

who had stood up to China. China's subsequent determination to play a role in the arcane process of identifying the eleventh incarnation of the

present 60-year-old Dalai Lama. That move gathered pace in the early 1990s when Li Peng, the Prime Minister and a hardliner on Tibet, fell ill. Then, others in the Chinese Communist Party hierarchy agreed that the legitimacy of the eleventh Panchen Lama would be enhanced among Tibetans if the Dalai Lama

approved his succession. A letter was passed to the Dalai Lama in 1993, through his brother who lives in Hong Kong, stating that the Dalai Lama's sanction for the next Panchen Lama would be sought. But when Mr Li regained his health in 1994, that attempt to co-operate with the Dalai Lama was ended.

It was then that the list of names, probably sent by the abbot, reached the Dalai Lama in India. It stipulated that Gedium Chockyi Nyima, six, was the likely incarnation, and the Dalai Tama publicly confirmed him as the eleventh Panchen Lama, angering Chipa. Beijing promptly found another boy on the list, Gyaincam Norbu, and in 1995 installed him as the Panchen Lama. Since then China has eleventh Panchen Lama, and onever prierred to the Dalai but only as a criminal.

#### **Hong Kong** activists to fight on

Hong Kong: Pro-democracy activists planning pro-tests to mark the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989 wowed that the handover of the colony to China would not stop future commemo-

We will still held the gathering even if they ban it," Szeto Wah, a campaign

er, said yesterday. They also plan to display in a Hong Kong park a 26ft sculpture, entitled, the Piliar of Shame by Jen Galschiot, a Danish artist.

#### per cent burns. step towards its eventual aim Tokyo votes to protect rights of Ainu minority

AFTER a century of exploitation, Japan pledged yesterday to safeguard the hu-man rights of the Ainu, an aboriginal people concentrated in the northernmost sland of Hokkaido.

The lower house of parliament adopted n new law to protect and promote the Ainti culture and traditions, virtually

destroyed by Japan's historical policy of stamping out the native heritage.

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO aboriginal race as the ethnic minority had demanded. Japanese leaders feared

According to official figures, about 25,000 Ainu now live in Hokkaido. But

number, because many prefer to conceal their identity to escape discrimination. that recognising them as aborigines Shigerr Kayano, inpan's first and only would unleash a flood of claims for land. Aing member of the upper house of and mineral rights. The Ainu have been parliament, said the new law did not systematically deprived of their land, sains his people's demand for the return without compensation, and pushed unto of landsuperprinted over the centuries, small pockets of Hokkaido since the late. But added that it was better than 1880s.

According to official figures, about enacted in 1899 which sought to wipe out 25,000 Aigu now live in Hokkaido But. Ainu culture with the restriction their right.

Ainu culture, even restricting their right fo catch salmon in Hokkaido rivers.

#### or more? But the legislation stops short of 25,000 Ainu now live in Hokkaido But designating the Ainu people as an Ainu activists say there are twice that quality and access to the full range If your answer is "Yes" to the above, you need Jyske Bank's private banking of international investment products. But as a bank with Danish roots, we offer you something extra; You will find that placing money expert advice in which attention abroad is simple and a good idea. to detail and friendly service are to the fore.

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THE Caribbean islands are miserable part-time labour.

battling a crime wave, and an

increase in the deportation of

criminals from the United States is largely to blame. That is the message which

leaders of the region have

when he attends a Caribbean-

US summit in Barbados

the deportees are introducing sophisticated criminal tech-

niques learnt in America to

their native lands. What some

like to call the "Americani-

sation" of crime is tearing

their small societies apart and

threatens to undermine inter-

nationally financed efforts at

national reconstruction. In the

neighbouring Dominican Re-

public, police say armed crime soared last year. They blame

1,500 criminals sent back last

in Jamaica, officials note the

island suffered one of its

bloodiest years in 1996 - 891

people were murdered - in

part because of the return of

dangerous criminals. Of 1,765

criminals deported to Jamaica

last year, 1,199 were from the

United States, up from 872 the year before. Of the total, 902

were repatriated after or while

serving prison terms for drug

offences. It is worse in Haiti.

the poorest country in the

region with 85 per cent of the

population out of work or in

Hone:

Sug

of Vinimit

year from the United States.

In Haiti, rampant crime

straining police resources.

Caribbean officials say that

Caribbean crime

soars after US

deportations rise

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

Local gangs, swollen by recent deportees, are pushing the country further and further

back into just the sort of chaos

that the US Army rescued it

grants who are convicted of

serious crimes serve out sen-

America, US officials began repatriating them in the mid-

1980s. It was seen then, and

still today, as a way to relieve

prison crowding - and costs

Washington officials say

jailing foreign-born criminals

was costing more than \$1

billion (£621 million) a year.

Robert Bach, policy director at

the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service, said:

"It is important that people know that the US is not

permitting these [criminal]

Clinton backs

trading pact

Rica yesterday, midway through his Latin Ameri-

can tour, called vigorously, for free trade within the

American continent, at-

ics of trade accords, such

as the North American

Free Trade Agreement (Bronwen Maddox writes).

in America.

### Muscovites hail London cabs for bumpy city ride

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AFTER decades of faithful service on British streets, the London taxi is about to undergo what must rate as the must gruelling journey in its long and distinguished history. Starting this year, the vener-

able black cab will begin service on the pot-holed, icebound and anarchic streets of Moscow, where the lifespan of even the most robust cars rarely extends beyond a handful of years.

Cooper Metrocab, the Brit-ish manufacturer which is working with the Russians to open an assembly plant in Moscow, has reportedly guaranteed each vehicle for 310,000 miles, described as "phenomenal" by a local commentator.

We chose the British cabs after careful consideration because we decided that they were the most sturdy, comfortable and safe for passengers and drivers," said Yuri Ostrovsky, an official from the Moscow Government's trans-

port department.
The introduction of a reliable cab service is part of an attempt by the authorities to regulate the chaos on Moscow's streets, where most people still use widely available pirate taxis instead of the often rundown official cabs. The problem of street crime

in Moscow was an important consideration in choosing the British cars. It is hoped that the estimated 2,000 distinctive London cabs destined for the Russian capital will be 100 conspicuous to steal.

Also, as Ivan Deremychev, who runs a local taxi firm.

pointed out, Russian-made Volgas and Moskviches offer no protection to drivers, who are subject to frequent muggings in Moscow. "The partition in the British model our drivers," he said.

Moscow boasts some of the most inhospitable streets in the world. They are covered in snow and ice for half the year. Grit used on the roads during the winter months can correde even the most sturdy vehicle in a couple of years. After the thaw the capital's streets are hot, dusty and cracked. Pot-holes are so common that one newspaper ran a competition locate the city's largest

Certainly, Andrei, a Mos-cow cabbie for more than 20 years, said that if the London cab was as good as it sounded he would be tempted to trade in his unwieldy Volga for the chance to sit behind the wheel of a British car. "The only British car I have ever heard of is the Rolls-Royce, if your cabs are anything like that, put me down for one," he said. ☐ Unpopular design: The

Russians have chosen the cab design least likely to be used by Londoners (Kevin Eason writes). The Metrocab was launched a decade ago as the alternative to the familiar Fairway taxi, whose shape is known the world over. The design failed to take off

among London cabbies, however, and even now only about 6,000 of Britain's 30,000 purpose-built taxis are



President Clinton waves to children who sang for him during a cultural display in Tlaxcala, Mexico. He flies to Barbados today for a Caribbean summit

# BUT OTHERS, TOO, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS MUMMY...

A brooding Rudolph Giuliani speaks out for Nev Yorkers in the Spider-Man comic suip ims

# Mayor gets his own web site

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

RUDOLPH GIULIANI, the Mayor of New York, has joined America's pantheon of pumped-up heroes by appear-

people to stay." Under pressure from voters and Con-

gress, the Clinton Administra-

pion last year passed new

legislation accelerating the

number of deportations of

Since 1993 America has

deported more than 100,000

criminal aliens. Last year's figure - 37,063 - was a 33 per

Washington's anxiety to

solve a domestic problem has

failed to take into account the

resulting social and economic

costs that the returning crimi-

nals inflict back home, Carib-

bean officials and experts say.

These guys do not go back

and plant tomatoes or or-anges," said (velaw Griffith, a

Guyana-born university pro-

fessor and regional security

expert. They go back and reinvest in what they know best crime. It's a nightmare for local law enforcement

Caribbean officials say it is ironic that America is dump-

ing more and more criminals

ficking - on their doorstep, at

the same time as they are being pressured by the Ameri-

cans to improve their perfor-

Central American and Ca-

ribbean officials acknowledge

the right of the United States

to deport, but say they are given little formal notice or

background on the criminal

history of those returned.

mance in the drug war.

many linked to drug traf-

cent increase on 1995.

criminals.

ing in the Spider-Man comic strip this week. The Mayor, held in high regard by New Yorkers for his rugged approach to crime, plays himself in the strip, although the kindly artist depicts him with a fuller head of hair than he has in real life.

In the latest instalment of

brooding Mr Giuliani is portrayed saying words that come straight from his election campaign: "We can't let our citizens live in fear!"

Colleen Roche, the Mayor's press secretary, said that her boss was pleased with his appearance alongside Spider-Man. She said: "He is a big fan and is in 100 per cent agreement with the statement

Stan Lee, the creator of the popular comic strip in which Spider-Man puts the city's "punks" in their place, said that he enjoyed dropping wellknown figures into his stories. We like for it to appear real." he said. The realism, however, appears to be confined to Mr Giuliani, as Spider-Man does battle with a fiendish Egyptian mummy called Tut Ammon. The mummy robs New York's helpless citizens and then vanishes into thin air. driving up the city's crime figures in the process.



#### **Simpson prosecutor** has the final word

Los Angeles: Marcia Clark. the lawyer who conducted the rosecution of O. J. Simpson for murder, today attacks the "court of public opinion" in Beyond a Doubt, her 500page memoirs (Giles Whittell

The book reveals little new about her or the case, in which Mr Simpson was acquitted. except that she was raped at 17 and that she and Christopher Darden, her co-counsel, were "closer than lovers" by the time the trial ended. But Ms Clark has had the last laugh despite her defeat.

Her \$4.2 million (£2.6 million) book advance is the largest of more than 20 paid to participants in the trial. In addition, her status as an icon for overburdened working women has won her thousands more from lectures.

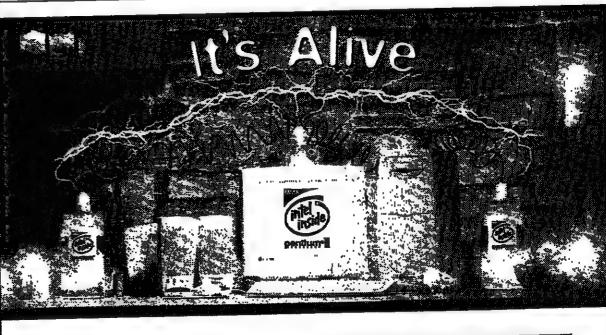
Viking, her publisher, is likely to profit less and has halved its projected first print run of a million copies.



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# 'We are grateful for what the Tories did, but it is not the end of the story'

Can Frank Field solve the problems of the welfare state?

ow times change. When I last interviewed Frank Field, in the 1980s. he was a lone backbencher in a crewneck sweater and we talked over a plate of spaghetti in an eaterie one step up from a greasy spoon, in the unre-constructed Labour Party he was a voice in the wilderness, a supporter of Tory reforms. Mrs Tharcher had declared her respect for him, "a good

Field's future seemed hopeless. He was stuck in an unelectable party which, if it ever got into government, would never offer him a job because he could not be one of them. Not only did he think the unthinkable, he spoke it, with a whispered intensity.

Yet here he is today, greyhaired, 54, in a ministerial panelled office in Richmond House, Whitehall, with three

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tall Gothic windows and two sofas plushly upholstered in cream. I feel I have come home," he says.

Not many new ministers come to the job having already written to books on their subject, three in the last three years: An Agenda for Britain. Making Welfare Work and How to Pay For the Future. The titles tell you everything really. If we want the welfare state we will have to pay for it differently. Mr Blair has underscored his enthusiasm for Field's views by making him minister for the reform of weifare.

What Field always understood was that the social security system shaped people's behaviour, and must be subject to moral scrutiny. He said it was asinine to separate benefit offices from jobcentres: seeking work? He said Labour should have sold council Frank Field: "For the whole of my political life, Labour has espoused a view of human nature which is simply wrong. The self-regarding side has been ignored or suppressed

houses, reformed the trade unions, introduced school tests: why were so many school-leavers unable to read or write, when there were no iobs for illiterate vouths any more? He pointed out that people enjoy saving: it gives them control over their lives: why were they penalised for having a nest-egg? Welfare should be a springboard, not a prison. The Labour Party was completely out of touch with reality", "short on street cred",

Long before it was politically acceptable, he wrote about

the underclass, habitual dependency, and fraudsters. The social security system, with by far the biggest budget in Britain, had become rotten and ruinous, discouraging savings, encouraging untruth, undermining honesty and effort. For years, he told us housing benefit was a sitting duck for organised gangsters who used the system as a personal merchant bank. He knows of landlords drawing more than El million a year in

The Tories took an unconscionable long time to start

**CABLE & WIRELESS** 

countering fraud, and much of the running was made by the Commons Select Committee on Social Security, which Field chaired for ten years. (He was terrific in the Maxwell hearings.) Peter Lilley had started getting tough, but Field prom-ises to be tougher. "We are most grateful for what the last government did, but it's the ginning of the story, not the end. The media has always accused Joe Bloggs of committing fraud; but the biggest gains for the taxpayer will big boys, the gangsters or 'businessmen' as they call themselves." When will that

But with the alacrity characteristic of the new regime, briefings from civil servants in the DSS began on Bank Holiday Monday; he says he has learnt much already.

be? "On day three in this office, Valerie, I have not yet

got a plan agreed

ield grew up a working-class Tory at St Clement Danes Grammar School in London. His father worked for 48 years building carbon blocks at Morgan Crucible. "He got up every day, coughing his lungs out, hating his job, but he never went sick, never let them down." After 48 years they gave him \$1 for every year of employment. The now radicalised Frank read economics at Hull, and served a long, dedicated apprentice-ship as director of the Child Poverty Action Group. He lives alone in a neat,

hook-lined flat in Westminster. In Birkenhead he rents a Georgian property in a pretty square. He wanted to buy there too, but he could never be sure he would hang onto his majority: in the 1980s the local Labour militants were determined to dislodge him. What has become of those Trots? "We got them out," he says, looking foxy. "It's called not turning the other cheek." He now has a 21,843 majority swing: 8.5 per cent).

> Welfare should be a springboard, not a prison

He says, with a beautic smile, what a wonderful experience it was to be on the winning side, for once not having to apologise for his party's manifesto. In his books and pamphlets he repeatedly suggested ways in which the Labour Party could "leapfrog the Tory agenda" and start setting its own. "We have now leapt." he says.

He is a priestly and contem-

plative soul, a former member of the General Synod Coleselected because I was unsound on women priests"), a Christian first, a politician second, who once slept on the streets to

draw attention to the homeless. Few are better suited to represent the financial mettle and probity of new Labour.

For the whole of my political life, Labour has espouse a view of human nature which is simply wrong," he says.
"The self-regarding side has been ignored or suppressed All the cant that we paraded on stilts, the notion that we

THE **VALERIE GROVE** INTERVIEW

were only motivated by altru-ism, must have left the purners bewildered and angry: it is just not how the world works.

"Our job now is to show how self-interest — a natural and wholesome instinct, the greatest driving force in all of us — can also promote the common good. The last gov-ernment failed to distinguish between self-interest and selfish greed. If people are worrying about their future, their children's future, the care of their elderly parents, they won't have time or sympathy

for more vulnerable people. Our aim must be to make onght to be held by a nonthem so happy that we can win their support for other people. less fortunate."

He is determined to wean us all off the "ration-book economy" and into a more collective arrangement. We shall all be obliged to make secondary pension provision, to run alongside universal state provision. How far this plan differs from Peter Lilley's remains to be seen. "What the

Tories published was the dewant the sharp elbows of the middle class seeing this as a jolly useful first step in building an adequate retirement income, even if they've got another pension. But people will not be prepared to make that second pension provision if they think politicians have got their sticky fingers on it so we-must encourage the expansion of existing munual bodies which have nothing to do with the State. We do have a history, a tradition of doing things collectively, before the State took over.

Some accuse him of abandoning his traditional interests. They remember that during the last Labour government, before he became an MP, he was tireless in reminding us of the existence of hungry latchkey children. But be has never lost sight of protecting the weakest, the oldest, the poorest, the genuine underdog.
I reminded him that he once

told me that if he ever got into. government he would prefer

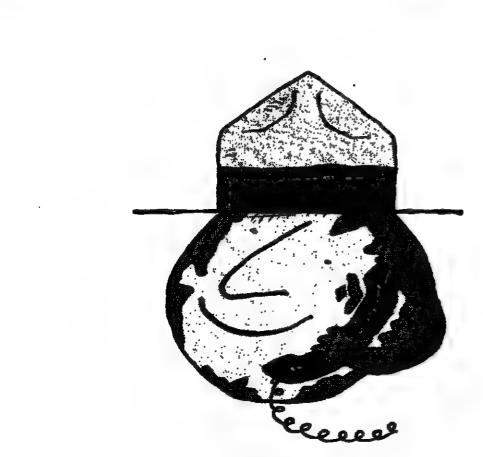
the Irish office because it family man, in case he got blown up." A saintly thought. What does he say now?

rather hoped for a more flery response. "People have always corised me as one who was born to be the outsider. In fact I've been a passionate outside, but who wanted to play a part in making my party electable. There are enormous advantages being on the back benches, but there are privileges and duties which come with being in government.

"My critics thought I would never be able to make the transition, that I would not last two days. But on day three I can tell you it's, the most natural thing in the world to me, to be in this wonderful room." (Previous occupants Sir Nicholas Scott, William Hague ) I want to maximise each minute in this job. I love it. It's my life. It feels

like coming home. Crossing Trafalgar Square afterwards, who should I run into but my old friend Alan Brien Sunderland born authat of Lenen: the novel. "Frank Held?" he harrium phed. "Dismantling the wel-tare state Fauppose." Oh dear. I see that the dichards of old have yet to be won

Page 1.



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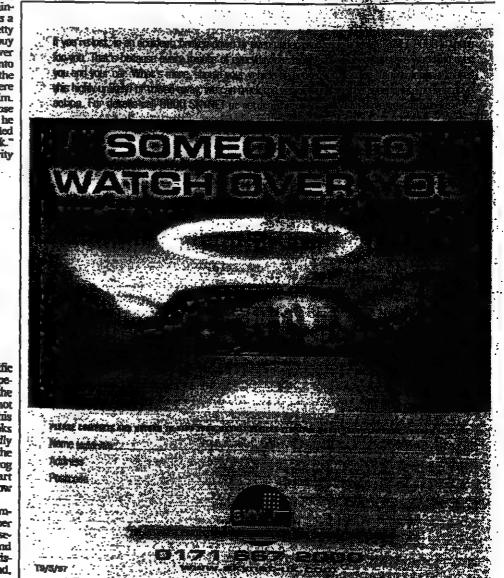
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# The day they let the authors out of their studies

Any writer worth his salt had to be at Hatchards' bicentennial bash, says Joseph Connolly

suggested that the prime source of discontent on and those denied access to the inner corridors of "Literary London" was the deep seated and resentful belief that all the high-powered deals are con-ducted by a small circle of friends in and around the Groucho Club, and that all literary parties revolved around the same handful of OK writers; and naturally, he concluded, these malcontents have got it dead right.

Nowhere is this maybe better illustrated than at the most eagerfy anticipated and effortlessly stylish literary bash of them all—the annual Authors of the Year party at Hatchards in Piccadilly. Traditionally held at the end of April, the latest effort was even more glittering than usual, for this year

Hatchards 200th birthday. If you were a writer worth your sait you just had to be there and, if not, it was imperative to make it somehow known (anywhere that matters) that you were invited. of course you were. but something even grander had prevented you from attending (and short of a quick dubbing at

think quite what. party is that 95 per cent of the guest list comprises bona fide writers — the odd diarist apart. journalists, PRs and paparazzi are actively discouraged. That said, the mix of people is quite extraordinary; where else could you find the author of Watership Down, Richard Adams, in earnest conversation with Salman Rushdie - A. S. Byatt wading in to make up the triangle? I had great fun chatting in Salman (one of the most sane. of authors) about everything from publishers (but of course) to clothes, beards having one is nicer than shaving, we agreed (beards R Us) - and the excitement he was feeling at the prospect of

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the following night's election bash round at Martin Amis's

Fuelling myself on more of the excellent and endless champagne, I sidled off for a word with Jilly Cooper weaving my way through characters as diverse as Antonio Carluccio, Lord Owen. Jane Asher, Julian Barnes, Colin Thubron and T.S. Eliof's widow, all in their way. apparently having a whale of

Jilly seems to remember me mainly on the strength of a review I once gave one of her books oh God - years ago. In it I suggested that her next should centre on the Henley Regatta and be entitled Row locks. She called me Row-locks, now (I thinks she means it kindly). Jilly was quite one of the most attractive women there - she can't be 60, can she? She looks early 40s, tops,

ams still hovered

Joseph Connolly and Salman Rushdie

and gorgeous with it. There isa tremendous sense of release and clean good fun at the Hatchards party - I think in part because, contrary to how it may appear, even the most eminent writers don't get out all that much. It's an upside down world, the writing game
when you're on show,
sloping bubbles, you are not
worlding (aithough novelists
might debate that; when you
are locked in at home, though

- howling at the moon and maybe getting the words orali Moggach certainty seemed as delighted as schoolghts on half term — Debbie supplying the inevitable "pub-

lisher horror story"; a fan had confided that she had been disappointed with her last one - "It rather left you up in the air. she'd thought. Debbie with typical authorial modesty — grovelled her apology, only to find out that the last two chapters had been omitted from the print run; 40,000 paperbacks were pulped, and no more was said (When publishers blunder, little is ever said.)

he wheels of the party were as usual stylishly oiled by Hatchards' manager, Roger Katz — be steers the right people togeth-er, avoids possible confrontations and treats everyone as a star (easier, mind you, when practically everyone is). Do you remember last year, he asked me, when Iris Murdoch and Vikram Seth were deeply engaged in philosophical discourse for the entire duration of the party? I do. I do — I was far too terrified to even approach - and was anyway chatting to the fab and thrilling Joan Collins (she can't be 60, can she? My God, these young women today have a thing or two to learn).

Defty dodging some damn female who had given my last novel. Stuff, a, shall we say, less than glowing review (Rowlocks to her). I found myself talking to Elizabeth Jane Howard, whom I last met maybe 18 years ago when she was living in Hampstead with Kingsley Amis. In the days when he and I used to have the odd pub lunch together. She remembered those times, but was maybe not keen to disinter them; she further seemed very eager to talk to Louis de Bernières who, I could have told her. wasn't there. She asked me over to meet Beryl Bainbridge (who was smoking for England) but on the way (it's that sort of party) I encountered all sorts of other folk - Nico Ladenis (quite the reverse of the stern and rather intimidate ing figure he initially appears, though quite fed up with the GREENIEL likes of Conran

headhunting his workforce) and Bernice Rubens (who was smoking Europe); Bernice was the winner of the Booker Prize more than a quarter of a century ago, before wanted us to sidle back over to her friend Salman, but was reluctant while Richard Ad-

("he might want to talk about As the hours wear on, authors' parties don't tend to this out very much: they really like it once it gets going. Over there is One Fat Lady, Jennifer Paterson, hitting the canapes - just in front of thriller writer Robert Goddard, slightly miffed that he wasn't allowed to write the latest film adaptation of one of his hovels. Nor was he shown the finished result. He was, however, - as writers learn to philosophical. You never sight-of the fact that

oger Katz was now gently deflecting a publisher (how did he get in, folks were heard to mutter) who must remain as nameless as he was almost legiess — and gradually the message was filtering down that it was maybe time to drift away. Quite a few guests were leaving — there go Sir Ludovic and Lady Kennedy, and gone, too, are P. D. James and Lord Jenkins (individually, it has to be said). Colin Dexter, Sebastian Faulks, Nicholas Evans, Donald Sinden, Hammond Innes -

all floating back to their lairs. To some of us, though, going home is impossible what you do is gather together a band of like-minded souls and go on somewhere; and where better than the Groucho Club? Because Ed Victor had it right, you know — just as Hatchards is not so much a bookshop (more a way of life), the same is true of the Groucho. The danger is, of course, it's a way of life that scribblers can become addicted to - because although it really is true that they don't actually get out all that much - getting them back in again can be an absolute nightmare. Stuff is published by Faber & Faber at £14.99

Russia's dying swan The Bolshoi's artistic director aims to put the ailing company back on its feet, says Richard Beeston

how audiences in New York

Falling stars: Bolshoi performers were once feted around the world but on a disastrous trip to Las Vegas last year they often faced empty theatres

Lake, which involved several dramatic revisions, including eliminating a central character. The production was panned by critics and baller lovers. A critic for the weekly Vek wrote: "What remains is a banal family drama packed in swan's feathers." The howls of protest over the new production were followed by a disastrous tour abroad, the latest in a series of trips to the West dogged by poor ticket sales

rom his grand office in the Bolshoi The-

iev can see and feel

atre, Vladimir Vasil-

the changes under way in the

heart of Russia's greatest cul-

tural treasure. Entombed in

scaffolding and crawling with

workmen, the imposing neo-

classical building is being

repaired and renovated to give

the 200-year-old institution a

new lease of life into the next

But as the former acclaimed

dancer and now artistic direc-

tor nervously pushes back his

shock of blond hair, it is not

the exterior of the Bolshol that

can be repaired, but how can

the demoralised, overstaffed

and cash-strapped Bolshoi be

re-established as one of the

world's great centres of per-

Two years ago when he was

appointed to his job, replacing

a Soviet-era director whose

leadership style was most

often compared with Stalin's,

Vasiliev introduced a sense of

hope that the Bolshoi would

one day regain its reputation

as the world's greatest ballet.

conductors and dancers. He

vowed to thin out the staff of

more than 2,000 and pledged

to inject a new spirit of pride

and optimism after years in

the artistic doldrums. The

promises, which followed the

first strike in the Bolshoi's

history by disgruntled danc-

ers, may have sounded per-

suasive but Vasiliev concedes

he still has a long way to go.
"At the Bolshoi, it is always

the case that the problems are

bolshoi (big) as well," says

Vasiliev who, despite his dou-

ble-breasted suit and manage-

rial job, still moves with the

grace of a dancer. "I some-times think we need a few

more of the dictatorial meth-

One of his first moves was to

stage his own version of

Tchaikovsky's classic Swan

ods to run this place."

· He promised to bring in star

millernium.

forming arts?

The sad state of the Bolshoi is revealed in Dancing for Dollars, a two-part documentary, the first of which is to be aired at 9pm this Sunday on

With time and effort we can once again astound

Channel Four. It follows the tragic, and at times comic. escapades of the company on a tour of Las Vegas last year. Predictably, the visit was a

the world'

flop and American investors lost more than El million as the dancers performed to empseats. At one point an American promoter suggests, half in jest, that the only way to attract audiences is to perform naked.

The film is most striking when it contrasts today's pathetic performance with the Bolshoi's landmark tour of 1959, when fans slept on the streets to get tickets. In one poignant moment, Raisa

bureaucracy and the malia. so took part in both tours, recalls

threw so many bouquets that she "walked on flowers all the way to our hotel". Vasiliev ponders these criticisms with a heavy heart. "I was crushed by the reviews of Swan Lake, but I am convinced that, in time, I will be vindicated," he says, adding that he is working on a new version of the classic Giselle. was badly organised and I did not have proper control. That

will not happen again." He vows that with time and effort, the Bolshoi will once again astound audiences around the world.

"What I am concentrating on now is building up the key elements of a great company, the orchestra, the ballet, the opera and so on," he says, "It sounds Utopian, but it can be done and I have set myself a target of the beginning of the millennium."

His confidence is greated with suspicion by his staff. Gediminas Taranda, an acclaimed dancer at the Bolshoi. says that performers are still not clear whether Vasiliev has what is needed to restore lost greatness. "The morale is better. The organisation is better. But the repertoire is uninspired," he says. "Although we were promised world-class performers from the West, not one has come in two years. There is a sense that Vasiliev is not doing enough to promote the talented dancers and cre-

ate his own stars." But Vasiliev remains philosophical and says that the Bolshoi is simply a reflection dent Yeltsin is criticised as he attempts to reform the country

in the face of corruption.

man capable of saving the theatre. The only fear is that, like his famous dancing role of Vasiliev is hounded by the Spartacus, his efforts will end volatile artistic community as in tragedy. he struggles with the matta's prip of ticket sales, a bloated administration and a general

Dancing for Dollars. 9pm Sunday, C4. Part two is on at the same time on Sunday May 18.

resistance to change. For those who love the Bolshoi, Vasiliev

is for the time being the only

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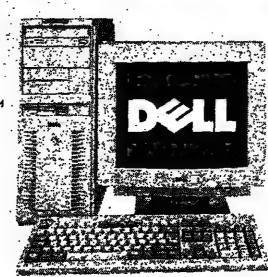
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# Enter the three Tory musketeers

Daniel Johnson wants younger

bloods to refresh a weary party

unedifying beauty contest of redundant Cabinet ministers, in which all the candidates feel bound to engage in competitive boasting. is unlikely to do the trick. Time was when modesty and reticence were taken for granted. and even unintentional showmanship was ruthlessly punished. Consider Quintin Hogg (now Lord Hailsham), who renounced his peerage in 1963 to run for the leadership, only to ruin his chances with a public appearance feeding his baby. Innocent, even endearing as it seems today, this was then seen as showing off. Even Douglas Hurd's attempt to play down his privileged background during the war of the Thatcherite succession in 1990 was taken amiss: if there is one thing worse than immodesty. it is false modesty.

I doubt whether vainglorious speeches and press conferences will impress the despondent survivors of the rout.

What they need now is a class act, not a salon des refusés. No doubt the new The Tories need a class leader will emerge from among the papabile, those who act, not a sat in the Major salon des Cabinets. Portillo, refusés Rifkind or Patten could even join the

list if the Uxbridge by-election is held in time. But there is room for a thinkercum-orator, if not a messiah a Macleod, if not a Thatcher from the other ranks.

For that the Tories must look to their new blood. Those who entered the Commons in 1992, and particularly those elected only last week, are likely to be better able to adapt m opposition than those who have spent much of the past 18 years in government and share the blame for defeat

Above all, the party needs another F.E. Smith, in the aftermath of a comparable cata-Prime Minister, A.J. Balfour, lost his seat. Smith's maiden speech put fire back into Tory bellies. That is the signal that not only MPs but disillusioned Tory and ex-Tory voters are waiting for: new statesmen to capture their imagination, restore their confidence and mount a cogent philosophical response to new Labour's victory. Now that Tony Blair has appropriated the Thatcherite legacy, the Tory party has to ask itself what it is for, and begin the slow reconquest of the cities. Scotland and Wales. the North, the West and the Midlands. It must also avoid

the Jacobite temptation. There is no shortage of talent or political experience among the new intake. Some of those who have just returned to Westminster have already held office with distinction: Francis Maude, John Maples, Christopher Chope, Michael Fallon. Others have achieved much outside politics, such as Archie Norman. that remarkable businessmen. and Shaun Woodward, the former producer of Newsnight and Panorama — a potential Tory Mandelson. Then there are the inevitable advisers, all of them ambitious and some of them brilliant: David Ruffley. Andrew Tyrie, Julian Lewis,

The Tory party badly Andrew Lansley, Tim Collins, needs cheering up. An John Bercow, Crispin Blunt. Most are on the centre-right.

Perhaps none of these more or less gifted chaps (and the party should be worried by the lack of women) is quite cut out to lead the Tory revival. If one includes the 1992 crop, though, I recognise three Conservatives with real star quality: David Willetts. Iain Duncan Smith and Oliver Letwin.

Of the three, only Willetts has so far held ministerial office, though that ended painfully. The bad taste left by the notorious note which led to his resignation less than six months ago may be too fresh for him to take the Commons by storm yet, but he remains one of the best parliamentary speakers on the Tory benches. and one of the party's most fluent writers. Humbled and hardened by adversity, he should shine in opposition. He has yet to lose his egghead image, but Labour has a healthy respect for him. He has vanquished Mandelson, for-

merly his opposite number, at the dis-

patch box. One of the most tenacious Eurosceptics of the 1992 intake, lain Duncan Smith has regularly contributed philippics to this page. His warnings to the Major Government

heeded, but proved prescient. What impresses many who meet him is the natural authority of a former army officer - a rarity in today's Tory party. Duncan Smith inheri-

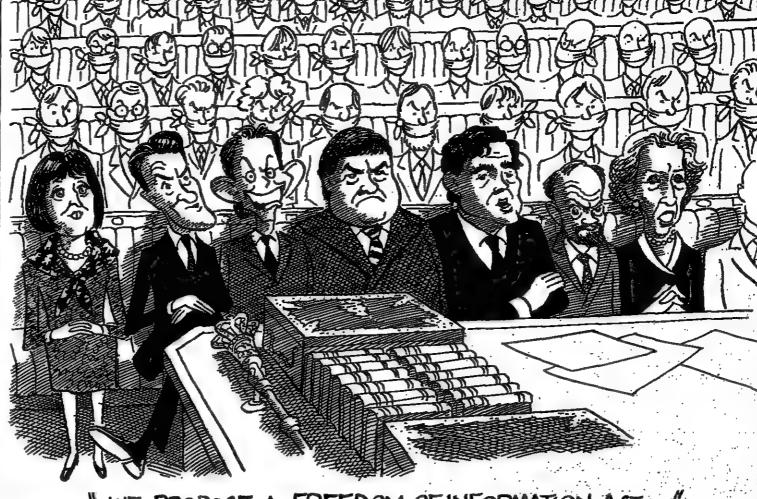
about Europe were never

ted Norman Tebbit's seat at Chingford, and has something of his taste for telling the party home truths. Lord Tebbit himself sees Duncan Smith as his "godson", and Baroness Thatcher admires his swashbuckling style. The new boy is Oliver Let-

win. It took him ten years to enter the Commons: from Stoke Newington via Hampstead to West Dorset. The son of eminent American dons, Letwin is a unique fusion of Cambridge and Chicago. He left a glittering academic career to rescue Sir Keith Joseph when he was marooned at the Education Department. At the No 10 Policy Unit he was one of Margaret Thatcher's best boffins. When John Redwood became an MP, Letwin succeeded him at N.M. Rothschild's privatisation unit: he has run it successfully for ten years. The party needs a philosopher to

make the case against a Gov-

ernment that has stolen most of its ideas: it could be Letwin. Willetts, Letwin and Duncan Smith are mature, solid family men in their early forties, with backgrounds in. respectively, the Civil Service, the City and the Services. Whoever wins the leadership. this triumvirate deserves a place in any future Shadow Cabinet. Willetts has declared for Lilley. Duncan Smith for Redwood: Letwin could vote for either. All three see Europe as the great issue of the day. and oppose the single currency on principle. New Labour may have hijacked the Zeitgeist, but these three musketeers are still the cutting edge of Conservatism.



" WE PROPOSE A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT ... "

# In praise of quangos

The little girl who asked "How can I know what I think until I hear what I say?" spoke truer than she knew. As an adolescent, I used to suppose that one must consult one's beliefs, then put them into action. With age has come the realisation that we must act, examine our actions, then

work out what we believe. Applying this rule to the nearunanimous reception given to the Chancellor's decision to cede interest rate policy to the Bank of England, it becomes apparent that, as we near the end of the 20th century, the British political Establishment's confidence in democracy is on the wane. We have, after all, little more than 60 years' experience of government by full universal adult suffrage. Abroad, the system has found favour in only a minority of countries and in many it does not seem to be working. At home it is too early to offer more than a preliminary judgment on the experiment. The preliminary judgment is sceptical.

I thought Norman Lamont put it best. As a former Chancellor, he congratulated Gordon Brown on Tuesday's decision. "Interest rates", he said, "should not be in the hands of politicians, who are subject to all'

kinds of pressures." Hear, hear to that! But how very illuminating. So politicians are "subject to all kinds of pressures", are they? Indeed they are. Politicians are subject to one particular "pressure", a tiresome distraction, relentless, and unremitting: the pressure to win

Mr Lamont is not the first politician to notice how degrading the influence of popular opinion can be. Plutarch reports that in 150 BC the Athenian general and statesman Phocion, on being clapped and cheered by his audience, turned to his friend Diogenes Laertius and remarked "have I inadvertently said something foolish?" Juvenal ob-served: "The people long easerly for just two things: bread and circuses." Jonathan Swift thought that "the bulk of mankind is as well qualified for flying as for thinking". Samuel Butler agreed. "The public buys its opinions as it buys its meat, or takes in its milk: on the principle that it is cheaper to do this than to keep a cow." Asked what might impress the common people of France. Talley-rand replied, "Well, you might try getting crucified and rising again on the third day." Said George Burns: "Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are

E.M. Forster was right: two cheers for democracy is quite enough

busy driving cabs or cutting hair."

Do not misunderstand, I share this suspicion of democracy and am not trying to mock. I'm with Photion, Juvenal, Butler, Swift, Talleyrand, Burns, Lamont and Brown on this. There is much to be said for the opinion that the pressure to please the public subverts good administration. l only observe that it is a rather large opinion with consequences beyond the management of interest rates. If, with Mr Brown, we seek to remove Treasury decision-making from those who are "subject to all kinds of pressures". why limit our reforms

the Treasury? Why do Messrs Brown and Lamont think interest-rate policy should not an elected politician? Because (they would say) this is an

area of government in which popularity may be sought at Clarke's interest-rate policy was serithe expense of long-term economic damage. Within a year or so of a general election, a Chancellor is under pressure to keep down interest rates (and thus mortgage rates), even if this risks building up inflationary pressure, the effects of which will not be felt until after the election. In other words, it is said, a Chancellor currying favour with the electorate may opt for short-term gain but long-

This is true, but only up to a point, The ill-effects of a cowardly interestrate policy are not only predictable and predicted, but quite swift in coming. The cowardly seeker of popular lavour may hear the cheers begin to die faster than he planned. A brave, "unpopular" Chancellor may win popular credit faster than cynics

suppose. Not so a brave transport minister. If the case for taking interest-rate policy away from the politicians is strong, how much stronger is the case for taking away transport policy, and handing it to the professionals. Observe the Humber Bridge, the white elephant that won a by-election, and weep! Plot the course of the Central Wales railway line, a subsidy-guzzler serving five marginal seats, and despair! All the popular pressure on a transport minister is for the quick-fix

bypass, the hopeless rail-link, the subsidy on ticket prices or the showcase project, in preference to balanced investment in infrastructure. Few politicians dare contemplate road-pricing, and none dare extrapolate the growth of car use to 2010, let alone 2020, and ask the howling, unanswered question. A brave Chancellor may be rewarded within years. A brave transport minister will be transported vertically before he finds his reward. Transport policy should therefore be left to people who are not running for office. If a committee of the Bank of

England can decide our mortgage rates, why can't a transcarve up the current financial cake?

I am not aware ously subverted by a desire for votes. But Michael Howard's penal policy was. If you seek an example of the degrading of debate and decisionmaking in the scrabble for popularity. Michael Howard and Jack Straw provide it. The price will be paid as the century closes and prisons burst. The prize was machismo for Mr Straw and — who knows? — the leadership of the Tory party for Mr Howard, if an elected Chancellor should stand at one remove from interest rates, should not the hand of an elected Home Secretary be stayed by an independent prisons board and a judicial watchdog guarding the law against

capricious change? And why not revive the Board of Trade? If one of the City's fears - now dispelled - was of a Labour Chancelior's interest-rate policy. another is of Labour ministers' gutreaction to failing manufacturing industry: the instinct to prop it up. Were Margaret Beckett to renounce the power to "rescue" steel mills, shipyards, cotton mills, Halewoods and sundry British manufacturers facing Japanese buy-outs, the City would be reassured.

We would all be reassured if the incipient appetite of "old" Labour government were similarly

ing commission, independent of min-isters, to take overall command of public-sector housing? Politicians answerable to voters love to premise. homes and freeze rents. One of the most reckless and damaging prom-ises of all time — the Tory promise before the 1951 election to build 300,000 new houses a year - left a legacy of social division and environmental wreckage in the form of dispiriting estates on green land around towns, and meanly constructed ghettos half a mile outside rural villages. It was the Tory answer to Herbert Morrison's successful drive to "build the Tories out of London". It was crazy that politicians had such powers. If a Chancellor is to be stripped of his power to court favour with mortage payers, why should a local councillor or environment minister, running for office, retain power. to squander reserves and win favour

British administration are its unelected quangos. The BBC is the finest broadcasting corporation in the world. Our ancient universities spend public funds with distinction, as do the Royal Opera, the British Museum, Kew Gardens and a thousand smaller quasi-autonomous governmental or part-charitable institutions. Our Armed Forces benefit from an armslength relationship with elected politicians, as do English Heritage, the Arts Council and many other bodies who act in the public interest but for whose operational decisions no minister is responsible to Parliament. In recent memory, our development corporations — such as London Docklands - have had a fine record.

mous arrow to its quiver.

Soon, in a reformed House of Lords, we are to have the mother of all quangos, an appointed but autonomous legislature, answerable to nobody and nothing but its own sense of public service.

And now, famously, our Bank of

England now adds another autono-

Ideology is dying, and so is the need to infuse every level of administration with the spirit of elective politics. By all means let us, from time to time, ask one captain to quit the bridge and replace him with another, but let us leave the radar controls, the engine-room, the compasses and the galley to the professionals. Hat's off to Gordon Brown Democracy is on the wane. Hurrah.

#### Philip Howard



#### ■ That African Oueen is causing trouble again

I. Lo, the Queen of Sheba hath come amongst us Mediaites again: and got her name once more into the tabloids of stone. 2. Verily the Yemenites and the tribes of Abyssinia are sorely troubled. They rage together, and their press officers imagine a vain thing. For the twain of them avow that the Queen of the South is the grandmother of their races, the Yemenites of theirs and the Ethiopians of theirs: and they wax exceeding wroth that the other race should covet the graven image of their Holiday Inns and other tourist amenities.

3. Yea their wrath is like unto the wrath of the cockatrice that seeth its young devoured by the turtle in the noonday sun.

4. Now Balkis (or Bilkis in the Koran) was the original Spice Girl: yea, even an hundred generations before the Lady Thatcher of Kesteven took on that flattering title.

5. For Bilkis (or Balkis) came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem with a very great company: and camels that bore spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones.

6. And when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. And Solomon told her all her questions there was not any ming hid from the king, which he told her not. And her hardest question ever since has proved to be: who exactly was the Queen of Sheba?

7. For Hollywood sayeth that she was Gina Lollobrigida: dancing before a rather subdued Yul Brynner with the voluntuous wiles of Salome or the serpent in the garden eastward of Eden. :.

8. Some wise men say that she came from Saba in Arabia: though the trade routes did not make that barren land rich enough for the great queen, until the years of many genera-tions after. Solomon had slept with his fathers,

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9. But Haile Selassie, the Lion of Judah, said that the Queer whom the Ethiopians call Makeda or Melkarth was the founder of his royal line.

10. And that raiseth the other judgment of Solomon: did Solomon really know the Queen of Sheba, or were they just good

II. For the holy books of scripture are silent as the lizard and the mole in the wilderness on this matter but generally people have assumed the worst. or to look at it another way, the best.

12. Since the Prophet Josephus, the Europeanites have said that the great Queen was black but comely: in the manner of Black Athene, the strange new Ashtaroth worshipped by the Philistines.

13. Verily, from Chartres to Corbeil (now in the Louvre), and from Tintoretto to Piero della Francesca, the Europeanites have graved images of her as an African, with negro servants.

14. Moreover, they say that she had a webbed foot like unto a goose in the River Jordan: hence they call her La Reine Pedau-que, pied d'oie or goosefoot.

15. Solomon was filled with wonder at the mystery of her feet accordingly he laid down a floor of crystal which caused the Queen to lift her robe, for she mistook the crystal for water, even for the Red Sea which she may or may not have crossed on her journey to

16. And lo, she had hairy legs and a cloven hoof that was a dirty trick of Solomon's

17. In his Solomon and Balkis, the scribe Robert Browning is in no doubt that the Oueen wanted from Solomon something more lovely even than wisdom: and Yeats's poem Solomon to Sheba makes them lovers. Selah. Letus hope that he was right.

18. The timbrels and psalteries of Handel's entry of the Queen of Sheba in Solomon openeth every concert and many weddings. Moreover Goldmark's bubbly Queen of Sheba sitteth on the cusp between opera and operetta, where the two psalms and trumpets shall meet.

19. The diggers who dig for the ashes of Sheba will never find her: for whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein, and he that rolleth a poisherd from the fables of antiquity, it will return upon him.

20. For Solomon and the Queen of Sheba are better than chronicles and greater than mighty kings: they are the foundation document of the story of love between the races, which lasteth from generation unto generation.

# McTeddy

AS THE remnants of the Conservative Party mull over the prospects for their Shadow Cabinet posts, a fiery contender is being tipped for the job of Scottish spokesman. Without a Scottish (or Welsh) constituency to its name. the party will have to choose a representative from south of the Border. Step forward Sir Teddy Taylor, MP for Southend, a formidable Scot and a Euro-basher to boot.



"Some people have made me an offer but, in fairness, nobody can make me an offer until there is a new leader." Taylor has form in Scotland.

From 1964 to 1979 he was MP for Glasgow Cathcart, and he was once a junior minister in the Scottish Office. When the Tories won in 1979, Margaret Thatcher wanted to make him Scottish Secretary, but he lost his seat. When he won his present seat, on the south coast, she called him Secretary of State for Southend.

#### Inconvenience

LAVATORIES top the agenda in the Serjeant-at-Arms' office at Westminster, where the huge influx of female MPs will place unusual demands on the facilities at the House of Commons.

Newcomers will have to hang on until the summer recess, when plumbers move in to convert a section of the Gents in each division lobby into a Ladies. Further afterations are certain. "It is a problem we are considering because the numbers are disproportionate,"

—— UK BANKS AND BUILDING SULLETIES —



says James Robertson, the assistant Serjeant-at-Arms. "In due course, we may have an even baiance of men and women.

The most radical suggestion comes from the far-left MP Judy Mallaber, who ousted Phillip Oppenheim in Derbyshire's Amber Valley: There is a parliamentary shooting gallery and I am sure that we can get rid of that to make the space."

### Top Gunn

THE RUSH among disheartened Tories to appear in print is being closely monitored by Conservative Central Office, which is battling to keep a lid on the public recrimina-

tions and exposes. Among those under the steely gaze of the Tory apparatchiks is Sheila Gunn. a chatty press atta-

chè and former Times journalist who shepherded the Majors through the campaign and became a close friend. She has indicated her intention to write a book. The journalist in her should produce something full of riveting anecdotes about John and Norma, so let's hope the Tory thought police don't cramp her style.

#### Punch pulled IS the sun already setting on Mo-hamed Al Fayed's publishing em-

pire, Liberty, which revived Punch



"That's the last time [ vote Labour, Mrs Blair"

magazine only to sack its Editor Peter McKay after two months? As the circulation of his Knightsbridge pamphlet nosedives amid talk of a relaunch. I hear that Liberty's affable chairman. Stewart Steven, the former Editor of London's Evening Standard, is about to leave because there is nothing. for him to do.

"At present I am staying where I am," insists the grandee brought in to oversee Punch and buy more titles on the back of its success. "I didn't think it was a lifetime's career." My guess is he'll be out by the end of the month.

#### Phone pole

COMMUNICATIONS technology at the Duke of Mariborough's Blenheim estate is due to be up-dated, with the erection of an 80ft telephone mast. Locals are understandably livid.

The duke, who is negotiating with Mercury, has sensibly sited the thing a couple of miles away from his Vanburgh pile, at the village of Wootton, out of the line of sight from his windows. "It's a scandal," says the parish chairman, Ben Brook. The transmitters are some of the ugliest structures in the countryside. To even consider putting one up at the entrance to a conservation village is monstrous."



● A frightful fuss has been made by the Post Office over publicity material dispatched by Channel 4 for Alan Bleasdale's new murder mystery, Melissa, starring Jennifer Ehle. Included in the package was a box of chocolates which contained a fake metal bullet. The bullets sent the PO's metal detectors and security devices haywire. We were very concerned by the items," says the Post Office, but having investigated and rapped Channel 4 over the knuckles, it eventually agreed to deliver the

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#### THE FREEDOM FILES

A Bill needs to follow the White Paper fast

Since 1974, a Preedom of information Act has figured in Labour manifestos. When Labour won the 1974 election, the pledge was quietly filed in the pending tray and left there. Some ministers would be happy with a repeat performance. In the long campaign that has just ended, the issue was less than prominent on the hustings. Although this is one instance where legislation could easily have been prepared in advance, next week's Queen's Speech will provide only for a White Paper, with no timetable for a Bill.

The Government insists, however, that it means business this time. History teaches that if it does, it should move swiftly. The enthusiasm even of the most democratically inclined politicians for freedom of information legislation tends to wane the longer they are in office. From their first days in the job. they begin to take decisions which might later be embarrassing. The appeal of transparency becomes daily less seductive.

The case for prompt action by this Government is unusually compelling. The layers of dissimulation surrounding arms sales to Iraq unwrapped by Sir Richard Scott damaged public faith in Whitehall as well as ministers; sleaze has tainted not just those involved, but Parliament itself. In Sir. Richard's words, "if government insists on secrecy for the inner workings of the government machine, is it in a position to be surprised if criticism is ill-informed?"

The Prime Minister has made trust his theme; a Freedom of Information Act would help to convince voters that the new Government will keep the cupboards clean. Moreover, it is absurd that information on Britain not available here can be obtained under the US Freedom of Information Act. Putting this right would fit into a modernising political agenda.

Prompt action is made easier because the legislative task has been simplified by Tory open government reforms of Whitehall. Since 1994, civil servants have been expected. to abide by a code of practice which requires them to provide, on request, quick and adequate supplies of facts and analysis, including the reasons for decisions taken.

Since last year, new rules have cleared millions of official papers for public scrutiny. The Conservative White Paper to reform Section Two of the Official Secrets Act is there to be enacted as it stands. The civil service has had time to adjust to a more open style of government.

The Bill must however be sensibly framed. Openness has to be a relative concept, not an absolute; good government may be encouraged by transparency, but is not synonymous with disclosure. Classification will still be necessary in the public interest: Mr Blair is hardly the man to dispense with Cabinet confidentiality. There are potential drawbacks to all such legislation, beginning with the disincentive to civil servants to be frank when setting out policy options. An exception to guaranteed disclosure should be advice to ministers which was rejected.

The information that most people will seek out will not, judging by other countries where freedom of information Acts are in place, concern the secret working of government departments but their personal files tax records, social security, police records or information about their state pensions. The Government will in any case be required by a European Union directive to make much of this available; that is another reason for moving speedily ahead with a Freedom of Information Bill.

Ideally, this should be an all-party project. Tories believe in returning power from the State to the individual and that should be the Bill's primary purpose. New Labour has adopted a similar concept of "partnership" with the voters. Access to information may not guarantee democracy, but, because it draws power out from the governing to the poverned, it is its indispensable hibricant. To move up the legislative queue, this Bill will require, however, a forceful champion: David Clark, the head of the Office of Public Service, is unlikely to be strong enough on his own. Mr Blair has called it "a change that is absolutely fundamental to how we see politics developing in this country". Yes, Prime Minister: one for you.

#### **FOOTSTEPS TO EMU**

Some are starting to see a sinister plot

First, the Bank of England is made pound. Traders want to buy sterling because independent; then a passionate enthusiast it offers high interest rates in a country with for a single currency is sent to negotiate a healthy economy and with a monetary completion of the European single market; and the next day, rumours surface that the Treasury intends to put the pound back into the exchange-rate mechanism. Is Labour about to commit to the single currency?

Publicly the position has not changed. Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, still says it is unlikely that Britain will go into EMU, at least in the first wave. The Treasury yesterday denied that it was the source of the rumour, which conveniently caused sterling to fall on international markets. And Sir David Simon, former chairman of BP, who: is now Minister for European Trade and Competitiveness, is not Minister for Europe at the Foreign Office, negotiating at the intergovernmental conference.

The new Government's first few acts in office can be interpreted in two conflicting ways. The worrying interpretation is that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, wants to prepare Britain gradually for monetary union so that when decision day arrives, the move will seem almost inevitable. This was how Nigel Lawson and Geoffrey Howe bounced Margaret Thatcher into allowing sterling to join the ERM. Mr Brown's instinct is to ensure that Britain's options remain genuinely open. To put about a rumour that he wanted to rejoin the ERM in the future at a rate of DM2.50 would help to weaken the overvalued pound, which is a big threat to the continuance of the recovery. If it made traders more inclined to believe that Britain would submit to European monetary discipline, so be it.

This is a dangerous game, however, if Labour has no intention of fulfilling market expectations. As Anatole Kaletsky argues on page 29, an independent Bank of England is likely to increase the upward pressure on the

policy given credibility by its new-found independence from political pressure. The more the pound strengthens, the more tempted Mr Brown may be to insulate himself from currency problems by subsuming sterling into EMU.

Before Eurosceptics panic, however, they should consider the opposite interpretation. Perhaps all this melodious European mood music is being played in order to soften the irritation of Britain's European partners if the country decides to stay out of EMU. Maybe the Bank has been made independent both as a sign of good will, to show that the option is being taken seriously, and as an added discipline for sterling should the single currency go ahead without Britain.

This is not inconceivable. Opinion at the top of the Labour Party has been moving against the single currency for the past couple of years. Mr Cook is very sceptical, and Mr Blair's early enthusiasm has been tempered by consideration of the economic arguments against it. Even Mr Brown has said nothing particularly positive about EMU of late. Any pragmatic government would surely want to see the single currency up and running successfully for a few years before exercising an option to join.

Which of the two interpretations is correct will not become clear for some time. Even if Labour does not intend to join EMU, ministers will not rule it out. By the autumn, it will be time to say whether Britain will join the first wave. Staying out then will not preclude later membership. The best defunce against that is forcefully expressed views from the business community and the public. Mr Blair is nothing if not political: he is unlikely to fight a referendum battle that he cannot win.

#### THE GAME'S AFOOT

New rules for the power players of central Asia

In about 12 years time the markets of Asia will demand an estimated 11 million barrels of oil a day. At the heart of the continent lies the world's last big landlocked oil reserve that has yet to be properly exploited. Beneath the desert and the steppes lie billions of barrels of oil, enough to satisfy the growing industries of India, China and Pakistan. The difficulty is getting the oil to the market. At present, the only pipelines lead north to the Soviet Union. The former southern Soviet republics want economic independence and, to Russian consternation, have enlisted Western oil companies in the race to build new pipelines across turbulent tribal battlefields. A new Great

Game is afoot The sums involved are as massive as the proposed pipelines. The most ambitious would take gas and oil almost 5,000 miles east to the Chinese coast, at a cost of \$12 billion. It would dive under the Sea of Japan to surface again in the heartland of Japanese industry at a further cost of \$10 billion. This joint American-Chinese-Japanese project is still a dream. The more immediate proposals are to transport the energy south to the old rules.

the Arabian Sea ports. But not only must the pipelines cross the Hindu Kush; they must overcome political obstacles almost as precipitous. With Washington's new sanctions against Iran already in place, no American company will agree to the quickest and easiest route, across Iran. That leaves only Afghanistan. The Talehan have seen their chance.

For all their suspicion of Western influence, the Islamic extremists now controlling Kabul are quietly meeting oil emissaries behind high walls. Despite Western revulsion at their policies, the Americans, along with Pakistan, are giving tacit support to Kabul in the hope of valuable concessions. Political intrigue and strategic calculation is as intense as anything seen a century ago.

This time the Central Asian countries themselves are the prize. With undeveloped markets, massive reserves and a pressing need for investment, the heart of Asia wants .urgent Western help. Moscow is playing a desperate game to sabotage attempts to reestablish old patterns of trade. The New Game is being played with little regard for

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I Pennington Street, London Et 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

#### Choice of leader for the Tories

From Mr Geoffrey Gelberg

Sir. As deputy chairman of my local Conservative association, I am conconservative association, I aim con-cerned at the possibility of the next Tory leader being elected by a post-metidown handful of a mere 164 MPs. These are the survivors of those who got it so wrong in 1990 and the odds are that because of the vociferous and out-of-touch Eurosceptics in their ranks they will get it wrong this time

In my view the only way forward is to give each of the 600-odd Tory associations the same vote as each of the successful MPs. With some 800 votes being cast, the winner would for the first time be entitled to claim the support of the Conservative grass roots. Then, if we err, we shall have our seives to blame and not just the elected

Yours truly, GEOFFREY GELBERG, 37 Hasiemere Avenue, NW4.

From the Chairman of the Scottish Conservative Candidates Association and others

Sir, The task of the next leader of the Conservative Party will be to oversee the rebuilding of the party throughout Great Britain. As Scottish Conservatives we believe this process must be

radical and comprehensive. In the 50 years since the war the Conservative Party in Scotland has declined from a position where it held a majority of the parliamentary seats to one where it holds no seats at all. The symptoms of this decline are apparent in the party in England; an outdated organisation, an ageing membership, and pitifully small re-presentation in local government. We need to act now to prevent a total col-

One of the problems inherent in having no representation at Westmin ster is that we have no say in the leadership election. Were we in Parliament we would vote for William Hague. He has the vitality, energy and intellectual ability to rebuild our party and lead us back to government. Equally important, he has recognised the need to rebuild the party across Britain. We trust that our colleagues in the south will take note.

Yours faithfully. STRUAN STEVENSON, Chairman, ADAM BRUCE (Vice-Chairman). ALISTER JACK (Treasurer), . Scottish Conservative Candidates' Association, c/o West Flat, Gilston, Leven, Fife, May 7.

From Professor Emeritus Edward Garden

Sir, After its defeat in 1979, the Labour Party lurched to the left and became unelectable. The same fate awaits the Tory party if, after the catastrophe of May I, it veers to the right. This should be borne in mind by the MPs who will elect a new Tory leader, comparatively few as they are in number.

Yours faithfully, EDWARD GARDEN, Balchraggan Farm House. Kirkhili, Inverness.

From Mr Rupert Symons

Sir, The position in which the Conservative Party now finds itself is very different to that of the Labour Party after the 1979 election.

The Labour Party needed to rethink and refashion its whole political philosophy. Many argue that new Labour has only now become electable be cause of its espousal of the Thatcherite

The Conservative Party does not now need to be "reborn" in policy terms - new Conservatism is not required. Instead, the party needs to be seen as having a renewed appetite for government and a revitalised ability to govern effectively. That means the people at the top have to change. There is no point in trying to present the old faces to the electorate in five years' time and pretending that they have somehow become different

I firmly believe that William Hague is the only possible candidate who could form an effective Opposition and take the party through the next five years successfully.

Yours faithfully. R. SYMONS, 18 Bishopswood Road, No.

From Daljit Sehbai

Sir, With six leaders standing to replace John Major and an electorate of only 164 MPs, we have a classic example of too many chiefs and not enough Indians.

Yours faithfully, D. SEHBAL Reform Club, Pall Mall, SWI. May 8.

> Business letters, page 29 Sport letters, page 41

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

### Independence for Bank of England

From Mr Walter Grey

Sir. Anatole Kaletsky ("A steel cage for the Iron Chancellor", May 7) draws a quite inappropriate analogy between Gordon Brown's "sudden" announcement of operational independence for the Bank of England on the one hand. and John Major's "equally unexpected and 'irreversible' decision to join the exchange-rate mechanism" on the

First, there was nothing wrong with joining the ERM as such. What was wrong, briefly, is that we did so too late, and therefore at an unsustainably high rate, and then, right up to the eve of Black Wednesday, stubbornly opposed a general ERM re-alignment, repeatedly offered in the wake of German reunification, under which sterling's overvaluation could have been corrected quite painlessly.

Indeed, far from continuing blame what went wrong on the ERM (which is, of course, still going as strong as ever, if not stronger, without us) rather than on ourselves, we should now, given the ERM's widened fluctuation bands and, above all. our own reformed monetary regime (and already improved economic performance), consider rejoining the ERM sooner rather than later.

Second, and most important, what Kaletsky censures as now being the Bank's - like the German Bundesbank's - "virtually exclusive preoccupation with prices" is, in fact, a positive virtue. Besides working, as it must, against inflation and deflation alike, price stability is a prime prerequisite of sustained growth free from the ravages of the boom-bust ("economic") cycle, and of other, hitherto denied or elusive, social as well as economic benefits.

Yours faithfully, WALTER GREY. 12 Arden Road, Finchley, N3.

From Lord Catto

Sir, My father, who was the last Governor of the publicly quoted Bank of England and the first Governor of the nationalised Bank, made every effort, in the framing of the Act of Parliament, to ensure that the new Bank had as much independence from the Treasury as possible. To this end his insistence that the appointment of the governor should be for a fixed term has had the result, over the past half century, that governors have not been changed when a new administration has been voted into power by the

people.

He was also concerned that friction between the City and Whitehall should be kept to a minimum. After all, he had himself been sitting, with Maynard Keynes, as one of the two advisers to the wartime Chancellors of the Exchequer. Unfortunately the proposal that control of bank rate would continue to be exercised by the Bank of England in consultation with the Treasury gradually faded away; this was publicly acknowledged by Denis Healey in a Budget speech announc-

ing a change in base rate.

Much of this country's problems with inflation over the postwar period, which hurt the poor and the pensioners most, stem from the lack of confidence not only by us but by the world at large in the ability of any British government to control it. The recent Government under Mr Major had already made good progress but the new Labour Government's action arnounced yesterday will reinforce this. I am sure that my father would have welcomed the proposal that the

right place for the control of interest

rates is in an independent central Yours faithfully, CATTO Deutsche Morgan Grenfeli Group plc. 23 Great Winchester Street, EC2. May 7.

From Mr Edwin Lee

Sir, It is reassuring to know that after successful supervision of the likes of Johnson Matthey, BCCI and Barings the Bank of England is now to be put in charge of the nation's interest-rate

Yours faithfully, EDWIN LEE. Rowde House, Rowde, Wiltshire.

From Mr Peter C. Knee

Sir, Now that the Bank of England is effectively to gain its independence, is it not also time that it was renamed Bank of Britain? A Scottish Chancellor should relish such an overdue

Yours sincerely. P. C. KNEE, 46 Burkes Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

#### Major's admiration for Rab Butler

From Mr D. R. Thorpe

Sir, Recrimination is an inevitable aftermath of electoral defeat. As Arthur Balfour ruefully observed: "It is not a principle of the Conservative Party to stab its leaders in the back, but I must confess that it often appears to be a practice." However, for Tim Hames ("How the campaign was lost", May 2) to criticise John Major for his admiration of the pragmatism of Rab Butler, on the grounds that "if Butler's advice had been accepted in 1940, Britain would have ceded Europe to Nazi Germany", is not sustain-

able as a serious historical comment. Rab Butler's discussion, when Under Secretary at the Foreign Office, of possible peace terms during an informal meeting with the Swedish Am-bassador, Björn Prytz, in St James's Park on June 17, 1940, can hardly be deemed "advice".

Foreign policy would be determined by the Secretary of State, Lord Halifax, as Prytz's telegram to his Govern-ment that night acknowledged. Al-though Butler later conceded that even discussing the possibility of ne-gotiations might be interpreted as deeatism, especially on the day of the fall of France, the episode was really an example, as the late Lord Colyton stressed, of Butler's deliberate use of

"revealing and injudicious comments in order to extract responses from his listeners".

John Major's admiration for Rab Butler on both the personal and politi-cal level is well founded. The dignified manner of his own departure from Downing Street, publicly acknowledged by the incoming Prime Minister, is a direct parallel with the way in which Butler responded to his great disappointment in October 1963; and his determination that the Conservative Party should seek to rebuild at the earliest opportunity mirrors Rab But-ler's belief that the 1945 landslide defeat should be for the Conservatives "a healthy opportunity and compelling motive for bringing both their policies and characteristic modes of expression up to date".

As Butler's restructuring of Conservative philosophy in the years of opposition paved the way for an early return to office in 1951, present-day post mortems should not begin by vicarious obloquy aimed at the principal architect of postwar Conservative

Yours faithfully. D. R. THORPE. Brooke Hall. Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey.

#### Pink peril

From Lieutenant-Commander Philip Barber, RN (retd)

Sir. Surely Leander succumbed to a "monstrous fleet" unless the "regi-ment" walks on water (Ms Katharine Sinderson's letter, May 2; see also letter. May 5); in which case the MCC, the male bastion targeted by Ms Sinderson, may indeed have much to

Yours ave PHILIP BARBER. Longpuddle House. Nob Hill, Norton Juxta Twycross. Atherstone, Warwickshire. May 5.

### **Nesting habits**

From Mr M. J. Clarke

Sir, Mr Phil Ridgway's house martins [letter, April 25; see also letters, May 3 and 51 may not be particularly unusual in working as a threesome at nestbuilding. However, I was surprised to read that they were building in his stables. I thought house martins always nested on the outside of a building, usually under the caves, leaving the interior to the swallows. Could this be an attempt to avoid

Yours sincerely. M. J. CLARKE, 20 Whitehaven Gardens. Manchester 20. May 4.

#### Thereby hangs a tail

From Dr A. M. Parsons

Sir. The exploding rat theory for a thatch fire is not as silly as Tim Jones makes it appear (report, May 6). Phosphorus can be prepared in a dangerous form by boiling down urine and heating the residue with sand to a red heat in a retort. However, it seems unlikely that a dead rat could do this.

Microbes are better chemists. They can reduce organophosphates to phosphorous hydride (phosphine) which, in an impure form, is spontaneously inflammable. It is not necessary for a rodenticide to be present: dead rats contain sufficient organophosphate for the reaction to occur without such additives.

Yours faithfully. A. M. PARSONS. 14 Woodlands, St Neots, Cambridgeshire.

May 6. From Mr Norman Coats

Sir, I have heard the old adage about journalists not letting the lacts get in the way of a good story, but did no one stop to consider how the spontaneously combustible form of phosphorus could have been laid for the rats in the first place? I could give you more details of the allotropy of phosphorus, but it's not much of a story.

Yours faithfully, NORMAN COATS. 21a St Michaels Close. Madeley, Telford, Shropshire.

#### Delays in policing the law's failings

From Mr H. P. K. Bradley

Sir. I would be interested to know how others with complaints against solicitors deal with the frustration of working with the Law Society's policing body, the Office of the Supervision of

Solicitors, based in Leamington Spa. My own quite straightforward complaint was notified to the OSS in early September last year. As far as I can see, they are no nearer resolving the situation than they were then.

The officer handling my cuse tells me she has 300 other cases and mine must take its course. A letter in sup-port of my complaint, faxed to Leamington on April 4, had not even been read by the officer on May I when I phoned her, although "it will receive priority when it comes to the top of the

Is the idea that Joe Public will become so disenchanted that they drop the charges?

Yours faithfully H. P. K. BRADLEY. 108 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen, SW14. May 6.

#### Roy Strong's diaries

From Mr John Goodwin

Sir, During the end of the very period. 1967 to 1987, when Sir Roy Strong was keeping his extravagantly indiscreet diaries (extracts, May 5-8), he wrote an enjoyable article in The Times on diaries in general. This was on February 4. 1984, when he showed a strong preference for those that cover "visions of aesthetic loveliness and delight" and those from an earlier age, while disapproving somewhat of those, like Sir Peter Hall's, that deal candidly with living personalities and contemporary

I don't at all blame Sir Roy for sidestepping the views he then expressed publicly. The most readable diaries are often recklessly frank. But here, surely, is an illuminating — even heartening — example of how splen-didly flexible the human mind can be.

Yours faithfully, JOHN GOODWIN (Editor, Peter Hall's Diaries. Hamish Hamilton, 1983). 52a Digby Mansions, Lower Mall, Wo.

#### Changing archaeology

From Dr Martin Welch

Sir, Professor Geoffrey Wainwright. the Chief Archaeologist at English Heritage, seems to imply in his letter (April 29; see also letters, April 23 and May 5) that quantity of excavation is more important than its quality. Many academic archaeologists are, however, unconvinced that the plethoru of low-grade evaluation excuvation does provide the "rich research

potential" he claims. Professor Wainwright extols the merits of "protection" rather than excavation, but the fact that English Heritage is funding research into the long-term effects of protection schemes highlights how little is really known about them. They are in effect carrying out an experiment on much of our archaeological heritage which may or may not prove successful.

At a public inquiry into such a scheme for a very important Anglo-Saxon cemetery site in Croydon, English Heritage persisted in pushing its "protection" scheme, involving resealng the site under a car park, even though expert opinion was clear that human remains and grave goods were likely to deteriorate as a result.

Virtually every expert in the field of early Anglo-Saxon archaeology, induding a representative of the British Museum, agreed that there was a good research case for the fullest possible excavation of this site. The developer's costs would not have exceeded what was required for partial excavation under the English Heritage scheme. Croydon's elected councillors saw the merits of the research case. but English Heritage did not.

Archaeology in England is indeed in the doldrums" and both academic and contract archaeologists are increasingly frustrated by the dead hand of this quango.

Yours faithfully, MARTIN WELCH. University College London. Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, WCl. May 5.

#### Ministerial help

From Mr David Mitchell Sir, I find Dr Norman Dyson's solu-

tion to the drought (letter, May 7) instituting more bank holidays - unduly expensive and quite unnecessary. Surely there is a good precedent for

a swift cure. In the great drought of 1976 the then Labour Government appointed a minister for the drought - a chap called Denis Howell. This was the most effective ministerial appointment ever made. Within two weeks the rains came — and stayed.

This could be a tremendous opportunity for the new Government to demonstrate its effectiveness.

Yours faithfully, DAVID MITCHELL, 7 Cedar Heights, Richmond, Surrey. May 7.

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#### **COURT CIRCULAR**

ST JAMES'S PALACE May 7: The Prince of Wales, President. The Prince's Trust, this morning visited the Omagh Lei-ure Centre, met beneficiaries and members of the local community and was received by Her Majesty's Lind-Lieutenant of County Tyrone the Duke of Abercorn).

His Royal Highness later visited Harbison Farm, Aghadowey, and Was neceived by Her Majesty's Lard-Lieutenant of Londonderry Colonel Sir Michael McCorkell). The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, this afternoon visited the 1st

BULKINGHAM PALACE May 8: The Queen and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother were present unday at a Reception at the aledonian Club, Halkin Street, London SWI, given by the Officers who served in HMS Vanguard during the Royal Tour of South Africa in 1947 to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Tour.

Battalion at Ballykelly.

The Lard Carter was received by u. Cuptain of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Tentlemen at Arms and received from The Queen his Stick of Office.
The Lord McIntosh of Haringey

was received by Her Majesty upon his appointment as Captain of the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard and received from Her Majesty his Stick of The Lord Haskel, the Lord

Whitty and Mr Douglas Hoyle were received by The Queen upon their appointment as Lords in Waiting to Her Majesty.
The Baroness Farrington of

Ribbleton and the Baroness Gould of Potternewton were received by The Queen upon their appointment as Baronesses in Waiting to Her Majesty.

Mr George Mudie MP was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Treasurer of the Household when Her Majesty nanded to him his Wand of Office. Mr Thomas McAvoy MP was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Comptroller of the Household when Her Majesty hunded to him his Wand of Office. Mrs Janet Anderson MP was received by The Queen upon her appointment as Vice-Chamberlain of the Household when Her Maj-

esty handed to her her Wand of The Rt Hon John Morris MP was received by The Oueen upon his appointment as Attorney General. Mr Charles Falconer was received by Her Majesty upon his produtment as Solicitor General.

The following were received by The Queen upon their appointments: Mr Andrew Hardie (Lord Advocate), Mr Colin Boyd (Solicitor General for Scotland), Mr Peter Mandelson MP (Minister of State, Cablinet Office), Mr Geoffrey Robinson MP (Pay-master General, Treasury), Ms Dawn Primarolo MP (Financial Sceretary, Treasury), Ms Helen Liddell MP (Economic Scential, Treasury), Ar Treasury). Mr Heien Libbell Mr Alun Michael MP (Minister of State, Home Office), Mr Joyce Quin MP (Minister of State, Home Office), Mr Douglas Henderson MP (Minister of

(Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Sir David Simon (Minister of State, Trade and Industry: Trade and Competitiveness in Europe), the Lord Clinton-Davis (Minister for Trade), Mr Ian McCart-(Minister for Traue), but had impossive ney MP (Minister of State, Trade and Industry: Competitiveness). Mr John Battle MP (Minister of State, Trade

and Industry, Industry, Energy, Science and Technology), Mr Michael Meacher, MP (Minister for the Environment, Transport and the Regions), Ms Hilary Armstrong MP (Minister of State, Environment, Transport and the Regions), Mr Richard Caborn MP (Minister of State, Environment. Transport and the Regions), Mr Frank Field MP (Minister of State for Welfare Re-

(Minister of State for Welfare Reform). Mr Adam Ingram MP (Minister of State. Northern Ireland;
Security. Police. Criminal Justice,
Prisons, Economic Development),
Mr Paul Murphy MP (Minister of
State. Northern Ireland: Political
Development. Finance, Personnel,
Information), Mr Tom Clarke MP
(Minister for Film and Tourism), Mr
Andrew Smith MP (Minister for
Employment and Disability Rights),
Mr Suphen Byers MP (Minister for
School Standards), the Baroness
Blackstone (Minister for Education
and Employment, Linds), the R Hog and Employment, Lords), the Rt Hon Dr John Gilbert MP (Minister for Defence Procurement, Defence), Dr John Reid MP (Minister for the John Keld MF (Minister for the Armed Forces, Defence), Mr Alan Milburn MP (Minister of State, Health), Ms Tessa Jowell MP (Min-finer for Public Health), the Boroness Juy of Paddington (Minister of State, Health), Mr Jeff Rooker MP (Minister of State, Agriculture), Mr Henry McLeish MP (Minister for Home Affairs and Devolution, Scotland) and Mr Brian Wilson MP (Minister

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, this morning chaired a meeting of the trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Pulace.

His Royal Highness. Patron, Culward Bound Trust, and Life Member and Gold Card Holder. the Variety Club of Great Britain. this afternoon attended a Sports Award Luncheon at the London Hilton, Park Lane, London WI.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President and Honorary Life Fellow. Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, this evening chaired the 1997 Prince Philip Lecture and attended a Dinner at 8 John Adam Street, London WC2.

May 8: The Princess Royal today ceived by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mrs Mary Fagan). Her Royal Highness this morning opened Heywood House, the Lord Mayor Treloar School, Up-

per Froyle, Alton. The Princess Royal later visited Marwell Zoological Park. Win-chester, and opened Penguin

Her Royal Highness this after-noon opened the new Indoor Riding School at the Peter Ashley Equestrian Centre, Fort Widley, Portsmouth.

The Princess Royal. President, Save The Children Fund, this evening attended a Reception at Buckingham Palace for the Gen-eral Assembly and Members Meeting of the Save the Children

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit the Garden of Remembrance.

Aberian, at 10.35; will visit Halla The Queen, will hold an investi-

ture at Buckingham Palace at

11.00. Later, as President, The Prince's Trust, he will attend The

Trust's 21st anniversary royal gala at the Opera House. Manchester

May 8: The Prince Edward, Trustee. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this morning attended a meeting of the crustees at Buckingham Palace.

ST JAMES'S PALACE May 8: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Air Corps, this morning received Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Westcott upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer 7 Regiment (Volunteers) and Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Rowland-Jones upon assuming the appointment.

KENSINGTON PALACE May 8: The Princess of Margaret. Countess of Snowdon this evening attended a Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7, celebrating the Royal Choral Society's One Hundred and Twenty Fifth Anniversary and given in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, of which Her Royal Highness is

May 8: The Duke of Gloucester ioday visited Merseyside and was received on arrival by Her Majside (Mr Alan Waterworth).

In the morning His Royal High-ness opened Nuigrave Primary School, St Helens, and afterwards opened the Flexible Learning Centre at St Helen's College. In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester visited Stoves plc. Prescoi.

Later, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, His Royal Highness visited the Cardiothoracic Centre. Liverpool, where Their Royal Highnesses opened the Robert Owen House. The Duchess of Gloucester to-

visited Newcastle upon Tyne and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear (Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison). Her Royal Highness opened the Eye Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmacy and Associated Hospital's NHS Trust, Queen Victoria Road, and afterwards

visited the Marie Curie Cancer Care Centre, Marie Curie Drive. Newcastle upon Tyne. YORK HOUSE May & The Duke of Kent. President, this evening attended a Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7. Celebrating the

Royal Choral Society's One Hundred and Twenty Fifth Anniversary. THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK May 8: Princess Alexandra. accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this afternoon at-

tended a Luncheon given by the Friends of Templeton College at the Gibson Hall. Bishopsgate, London EC2
Her Royal Highness, President, subsequently attended the Annual General Court of the Royal Hu-

mane Society at Lettsom House, Chandos Street, London WI. Princess Alexandra. Patron. later received Captain Claire Tay-lor upon relinquishing the appointment of Matron-In-Chief of Oueen Alexandra's Ruval Naval Nursing Service and Captain Pat-

ricia Hambling on assuming the

Prince Edward as Trustee The

Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will

attend a concert and dinner at the Royal Naval College Greenwich at

Almoner to Her Majesty on the retirement of the Right Rev John Taylor.

up his position on August 1, 1997, on the retirement of the present holder. Mr Guy Wilkin. Mr Richard Adams, author, 77; Mr Alan Bennett, dramatist, 63: the Right Rev C.W.J. Bowles, former Bishop of Derby, 81; Miss Nina Campbell, interior designer,

Birthdays today .

PERSONAL COLUMN

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother leaving the

had attended a reception to mark the 50th anniversary

of the Royal Tour of South Africa in HMS Vanguard

Service reception

The Queen and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother attended a

reception held yesterday at the Caledonian Club to mark the 50th

anniversary of the Royal Tour of

South Africa in HMS Vanguard

Officers who served on the tour

His Honour John

A Memorial Service for His Hon-

our John Streeter, DL, will be held

on May 21, 1997, at the Church of All Saints, Maidstone, at 3pm.

Walthamstow Hall

Mr Peter Gosling, MA, FCA, has

been appointed as Bursar and Clerk to the Governors of

Walthamstow Hall He will take

Streeter, DL

Engulaies 0171 353 9421.

HMS Vanguard 1947

were present

Miss Anna Pollak

A commemoration of the life and

work of Miss Anna Pollak, metao-soprano, was held yesterday at St Paul's Covent Garden. The Rev Raymond L. Ramsden, Chaplain to

the Royal Opera House, officiated.

Miss Wendy Toye read the pro-logue to Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld, which Miss Pollak spoke in the Sadier's Wells produc-

tion in the role of the Muse. Calllope.
Miss Penelope Wilton read John
Gardner's prologue To the Moon
and Shopence. Mr Peter Barkworth

read So Cheerful by Rosemary Anne Sisson and Mr Alec McCowen read Milk for the Car by Harold Munro.

Miss Rita Cultis, soprano, Miss

Sally Burgess, mezzo-soprano, Mr Alan Opie, barlione, and Miss Susan

Gorton, contralto, conducted by Mu

Victor Morris, sang during the service. Mr Anthony Besch paid tribute.

Lord High Almoner

The Right Rev Nigel McCalloch,

aledonian Club yesterday after she and the Queen

actress. 61; Mr Billy Joel, singer, 50; Sir Francis Kermedy, Chancellor, University of Central Lancashire, 71; General Sir Peter Leng, 72; Lord Lloyd of Berwick, 68; Mr Gavin Lyali, author, 65; Lord Justice MacDermott, 70; Miss Geraldine McFwan, actress, 65; Nina Campbell, interior designer, 52; Dr John Cook, Principal, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Foundation of St Catharine's at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park, 57; Lord Cooke of Thornden, 71; Mr Terry Downes, boxer, 61; Mr Albert Finney, actor, 61; Mr Carlo Maria Giulini, conductor, 83; Vice-Admiral Sir John Hayes, former Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty, Skye and Lochaish, 84; Sir Geoffrey Holland, Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 59; Mr Richard Houghton, racehorse trainer, 57; Miss Glenda Jackson, MP, and Geraldine McEwan, actress, 65; Professor Alistair MacFarlane, former Principal and Vice-Chan-cellor. Heriot-Watt University, 66; Mr Brian McMaster, chief executive. Edinburgh International Festival, 54: Sir Philip Mansfield, former diplomat, 71; Sir David Plastow, former chairman, Inchcape, 65; Mr Patrick Ryecart, actor. 45; Mr V.L. Sankey, chief exec-utive. Reckitt and Colman, 48;

#### **Dinners**

West Yorkshire Lieutenancy The Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire presided at a dinner of the West Yorkshire Lieutenancy held last night at Leeds University.

Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, KG, President of the Canover, Act, Present of honour and principal speaker at the annual dinner held lust night at the Royal Automobile Club, Mr John Fingleton, chairman of the society, presided and Mr Jeremy Nichols, Headmaster of Stowe School, also spoke. Parish Clerks Company The Rev Graham Blacktop, Mas-

ver of the Parish Clerks' Company, officiated and the Rev Richard Hayes preached the sermon at Holy Communion celebrated yesterday at St Mary Woolnoth. Afterwards, the Master, assisted by the Wardens, Mr O.W.H Clark and Mr J.D. Hebblethwaite, presided at the annual election court dinner at Innholders' Hall. Mr S.J. Murphy, Parish Clerk of St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall, and the Archdeacon of York also spoke. The Masters of the Upholders' and Musicians' Companies, the Mas-ter of the Fellowship of Hackney Carriage Drivers and Alderman Sir Brian Jenkins were among those present.

#### Lancheon

The Tablet Archbishop Lulgi Berbertto, Apostolic Nuncio, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given yesterday by the directors of The Tablet at the Royal Thumes Yucht Club, Knightsbridge.

#### At Home

Lady Mayoress of Westmiss The Lady Mayoress of West-minster was the host at an At Home held yesterday at West-minster City Hall for Diplomatic wives.

#### Reception

British Red Cross The Ambassador of Switzerland and Mroe Nordmann were the hosts at a reception held yesterday at the Swiss Embassy in aid of the British Red Cross and to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. Mrs Elspeth Thomas, Chairman of British Red Cross, was the speaker. A dinner was held at the embassy afterwards.

#### Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Brown, militant Abolitionist, Torrington, Connecti-cut, 1800; Sir James Barrie, dramatist and novelist, Kirrle-mutr. 1800; Lilian Baylis, founderof the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells, London, 1874; Zita, former empress of Austria. Viareggio, 1892; Floward Carter, archaeologist. discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamun, 1922, Swaffham, Norfolk, 1874; Barbara Wood-house, animal trainer, Dublin,

DEATHS: William Bradford, Pilgrim Father, Plymouth, Massa-chusetts, 1657; Nicolaus Zin-zendorf, leader of the Moravian Church, Herrnhut, Germany, 1760; Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller, dramatist and poet, Weimar, Germany, 1805; Joseph Gay-Lussac, chemist, Paris, 1850; Aldo Moro, five times Prime Minister of Italy, assassinated, Rome, 1978; Tenzing Norgay, Himalayan climber, Darjeeting.

Colonel Thomas Blood, an Irish adventuriar, attempted to steal the Crown Jewels, 1671. Ethiopia annexed by Italy, 1936. The Channel Islands were liberated from German occupation,

Britain's first launderette opened in Queensway, 1949.

#### Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.H.J. Bishop and Miss F. Knight The engagement is announced between Harvey, second son of Mr and Mrs William H. Bishop, of Langstone. Hampshire, and Francesca, only daughter of Mr Frank Knight, of Pewsey, Wilishire, and Mrs Jamila Knight, of

Prague, Czech Republic. Mr G.G.S. Bourne-May and Mrs N.A.M. Dewar The engagement is anno between Guy, younger son of the

late Mr Geoffrey Bourne-May and of Mrs Bourne-May, of Oakham, Rutland, and Noëline, second daughter of the late Major John Youde and of Mrs Youde of Auchencaira, Kirkcudhrightshire,

Mr E. Burgess and Miss S. Beck The engagement is announced between Edmund, son of Mr D.P.H. Burgess and Mrs K.M. Cotton, and Sarah, daughter of Mr

and Mrs Clive Beck. Mr P.J. Burneli and Miss C.D. Crudden The engagement is announced between Piers, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Burnell, of Corbridge, Northumberland, and

Catherine, younger daughter of Mr Paul Crudden and Mrs Patricia Morton, of London: Mr D.S. Craig and Misr A.C. Le Suem-The engagement is amounced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Victor Craig, of Toronto, Canada, and Alexandra, daughter

of Mr and Mrs Leicester Le Sueur, of Wilstord cum Lake, Salisbury. Mr A. Donnidson and Miss E.T. Glong

The engagement is amounced between Alan, son of Mr Michael Donaldson and Mrs Dora Donaldson of Edinburgh and Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Matthew Glong, of Airlie.

Mr A.P.J. Dwm and Miss K.R. Woo The engagement is announced between Aidan, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Dunn, of Newlands, Glasgow, and Kathryn, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs Robert Wood, of and Mrs Robert Woo Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Frazer and Ms C.J. Spiers The engagement is announced between Simon Frazer, of

Rhayader, Powys, and Caroline Jane Spiers, of Martock, Scroerset. Mr J.C. Jordan

and Miss A.S. Bindon The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs John Jordan, of Bourne-mouth, and Amanda, daughter of the late Mr Dennis Bindon and of Mrs Julis Williams, of Salisburg. Mr T. Latham 🐬

and Miss S.J. Fox between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Latham, of Felixkirk, North Yorkshire, and

Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Vincent Fox, of Redcar, Cleveland, Mr A. Mayes and Miss J. Boorer The engagement is semounced between Adam, son of Mr and Mrs

S. Mayes, of Harianton, Lincoln-shire, and Joanna, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Boorer, of Quarrington, Lincolnshire. Mr G.K.I. Moore. and Mrs R. Davis

The engagement is announced between Graham Moore, of Leicester, and Sally Davis, of

Mr P.M. Murphy
and Mrs B.R. Wightman
The engagement is announced
between Peter Murphy, of Langley, Essex, and Bridget Wightman,
nde Hedges, of Newton, Cambridge-

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

ORTUGAL & Comprise, All meson. Villandapte, hotels: postendae, post bote, Gight, Longane, lort, 0181, 654, 2424, head-agents, ASTA E1-632.

UK HOLIDAYS.

TICKETS FOR SALE

All pop Chesombury, Chespett in London, 0171 240 0800

MrM.H. Goodwin and Miss D.A. Waight

The engagement is announced between Malcolm, son of Mr Leonard Goodwin, of Hunworth. North Norfolk, and the lase Margaret Goodwin, and Deborah, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Robert Waight, of Shrewton,

Mr H.F.G. Morriss and Miss A.N.S. Kirkup The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Henry Morriss, of The Old Vicarage, Lodsworth, West Sussex, and Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Kirkup, of Little Bec Amport, Hampshire,

Mr D.B.T. Navior and Miss R.E.J. Hampson the engagement is aunounced between Dominic, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Naylor, of Wrenbury, Cheshire, and Rachael, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Hampson, of Gawsworth, Cheshire.

Mr N.J. Roberts and Miss J.N. Gretton The engagement is announced between Nick, son of Mr and Mrs P.C. Roberts, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, and Julia, daugh-

ter of Mrs M. Gretton, of Sydney, Australia, and Mr S. Gretton. Mr M.D. Rommon and Miss G. Bianco

The engagement is armounced between Marcus, elder son of Mr Kenneth Robinson and Mrs Myra Robinson, of Newcastle, upon Tyne, and Giovanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Bianco, of Sutton, Cambridgeshire. Mr C.B.P. Stevens

and Miss E.P. Williams The engagement is announced between Bruce, only son of Mr and. Mrs. Derek Stevens, of The Mumbles, Wales, and Elaine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Williams, of Northwood,

Mr P.P. Thomson and Min H.L. Herold The engagement is announced between Peter Paul, youngest son of Mr. and Mr. Robert Thomson, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, and Rebecca Louise, only

daughter of Dr and Mrs Richard St John Pieroid, of Phymouth, Devan. Mr A.J.R. Tweelle and Miss L.H. Boyt

The engagement is sumounced between Alastair, son of Mr and Mrs Charler Tweedie, of Little Hereford, Shropshire, and Lucy, daughter of Mrs Stephen Asquith, of Hinchwick, Gloucemershire. and Major Henry Boyt, of Geldeston, Norfolk

Mr CJ.V. Williams and Miss K.S. Knight
The engagement is announced between Charles John Verry, only son of Mr. and Mrs Jeremy Williams, of Pleabey, Essex, and

Katrina Sarah, second daughter of . Mr and Mrs Robert Knight, of Dorking, Surrey. Mr B.M. Wirms and Miss M. Pake

The engagement is announced between Bogislav, elder son of Professor Dr Matthias and Mrs Winner, of Rome, Italy, and Ma-ria, elder deurghter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Palcenham, of Castle-pollard, Westmeath, Ireland.

Marriages The Earl of Municer and Dr H. Winska The marriage took place on May 3, in Growhurst, Surrey, between the Earl of Mucher and Dr Halina Winska -

Mr R. William

and Mrs P.F.G. Davidge The marriage took place on April 12, 1997, in Towcester, between Mr Roddy Wilson and Mrs Philippa Davidge, née Lester:

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MUSICAL

FAX: 0171 481 9313

INSTRUMENTS

FLATSHARE

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Enppy are those whom you choose and bring near to remain in your courts. Grant as in abundance the bounty us in abundance the bount of your house, of your hol temple. Psalm 65 : 4 BIRTHS

Euro Enterorize, Merthyr Tydfit at 11.05; and will visit the Royal Mint,

Liantrisant at 12.35. The Queen

will visit the Welsh Blood Service

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit

ut Liantrisant 3.10.

BARR - On 4th May 1997, to Jenny and Robbie, a daughter, Catherine Joanna, a sister to Annabel and

SECTIVE - On May 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Susie and Christo, a daughter. Natasha, a sister for Thomas and Henry. BELL - On March 20th, to Joanne (nee Vesey) and Andrew, a beautiful daughter, Loonora Margaret, a sister for Calla.

CARTER KEALL - On Friday May 2nd 1997, to Karin (née Bentley) and Christopher, a son, William John Phlitp. COLUMS - On 2nd May at The Fortland Hospital, to

DE LARQUIE - On 28th April, to Rossmond (nos Tollemache) and Achley, a demotte: Reposes

DODGE - On 5th May, to Marianne (née Richards) and Peter, a son, William Peter james, a brother for Freedile, Emily and Oliver. EDEN - On May 1st at The Matlida Hospital, Hong Kong, to Joanna (née Spears) and Jack, a won, Nicholes Curenac, a brother for Machine.

GRANVILE - On 6th May, to Nicola and George, a daughter, Ella, a sister for Alten and Grace.

HAYNES - On May 1st 1997, to Beth (née Jones) and Richard, a daughter, Gobriella Elizabeth. HOWARD - On 27th April, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Helen (156 MLEGGS - On May 3rd, to Libby (ase Coningsby) and Tim, a daughter, Esbecca Charlotte Este, a sinter for Senigatin and Laura, Isalah 5921

McMAR SCOTT - Op Sth May, to Natasha (noe Stevenson) and Simon, a daughter, Charleston PARKIN SHEPHERD - On Toesday May 6th, to Jane and Danny, a son, Callum Daniel. BIRTHS ROSERTSON - On 2nd May in Durham, to C.K. and Deborah (ase Vincon), a con-jonathan William Gary, a brother for David Francis.

STEMSLE - On May 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Eristin and Bjorn, a sweet little buby girl, Andrea. STEVERS - On May 3rd 1997, to Victoria (née Banhury) and James, a son, Theo Paul Richard.

DEATHS

CBE DSO, born May 23rd 1907, pascefully in the own home on Wednesday May 7th 1997. Sadly missed by Mill, See and Alice. Fundral Service to take place on Tuesday May 13th at 12.30pm in Saint's Peter and Publ Church, Swalchife, near Sanbury, followed by Interment in the churchyad. Fasally flowers only please. Donations if desired for either the British Field Sports Society or Swalchiffs. Church may be sent contributed from the British Field Church may be sent contributed from the British Field Church may be sent contribute from all please. Donations if desired for citizen from the British Field Sports Society or Swalchiffs. Church may be sent contribute from all pleases. Banbury, OX16 SQU.

tragically shot and killed in Johannesburg. South Africa, on 1st May at the age of 62. The funeral, and memorial service to remarkable BETHLEHEM . The functal, and memorand service to remember and celebrate his life, will take place at the Wolvercote Cametary in Oxford (UK) at 2.30 pm on Friday, 9th May.

BROPHY - Log. Suddenly at his home in Norfolk aged 72 (late of Hackney and Loughton). Enquiries to Gordon Rooney Funeral Services, Norwich, (01603) 219216. CALDWELL - Colette Lilian, note Le Eccisional On May 7th, peacefully in hospital, formerly of Cambridge and Belhaven Hill, Dunber Wife of the late William Caldwell, mother of Clare and James, much loved Granny of Freddie and Jamis-Cremation private. No flowers please, but donations to EURBA, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 SBL.

المناسية والمراجع والمراجع والمستوار

DEATHS AMPSSI. - Joan, peacefully, on May 4th, after many years of affectionate care from the Augustinian Nuns and Steff at St Raphnel's, Adored wife of the late Alexander and very special mother to Cells

very special mother to Cella, Ian, Julian and the late James A loving spands other. Inn. Julian and the late lame. A loving spanishber, great-grandmother and friend. Requiem Mass on Friday 16th May at 11 am at St Raphael's, Danehill. Cardes or wild flowers only to donations, if deshed, to Missionaries of Charity (Mother Tanesa), Cho Fuller and Soott Funesal Disseton, The Wakelyns, Uchfield, E. Sussen. Tel: (01825) 763241.

6.30.

DAVEY - Lieselotte Pesceriuhy at home in Polegate un May 6th 1997, need 73 years, after a long illness. Deady loved with of John. much loved mother of Margret and Keria, a dearly loved Case of Kevia. Michael and Kirsty, moch loved since will. Else and families. A wonderful winsend by all. Funeral Service at St Johns Church. Polegate on Wednesday May 14th at 12 noon, followed by interment at Willingdon Cemetery at 12.45 pm. Plewers to Habe & Son Led., 19 Sonth Street, Eastbourse, tel: (01323)

DRAKE - Sheila Garthroyd Colouel in the AIS'NEAC'S and a FANT, died nged 84 years on 28th April in Cedars Nursing Home, Shaftesbury, Danr sister of Betty and Francis of East Coker and much loved godmother and friend of Cara, Stuart and Sophie. Cremation in Yeovil on Moniny 19th May at 3,00pm and Mensurial Service in Strett's Church, Shaftesbury on Friday 23rd May at 4,00pm. Flowers or donations to The Royal British Legion, cho GH Cook & Sons 8-11 Bund Street, Yeovil, Summerset BA20 1PE.

GHBON - General Sir John Glibon GCB, OBE, died pencerally on 7th May 1997, beloved husband of Rid, devoted father of John, lowing grandfather of Jack and Elizabeth, Funeral private, Family only. Memorial Service to be amounced later. No flowers

GARDEGER - (Née Couper). On May 7th, peacefully, Mary aged 91 years. Reloved with and the late Julian Gerdiner, mother of Shirley and Dr. Rebert Watkins, and dearly loved grandmother of Nicholas, Christopher and Jenny-Ann. Peneral Service at Mortlais Crematorium on Wednesday May 14th at 1pm. Family flowers only, but donations for The Musicians Renevolent Fund may be sent to JH. Kenyon Ltd., 49 Markoes Road, Kensington, London Wé 6i.A, tel. (0171) 937-0757.

GRIER - Hugh Christopher, music critic, and latterly Noble Brother of Foverty, St. Cross Hospital, at Winchester on 7th May, belowed father of Nicholes and husband of Eigheth. Puneral at St. Cross Church, Winchester, on Friday 16th May at 3 pm. Cut flowers only and donations to St. Cross Empiral.

of Albery House, Serwick-in-Test of the early master at Winchester College and Bradford Grammar School. Penecefully in Wansbock Camena Empirel, Addigen-Sth May 1997, aged 85. Cremation at Warriston Cremation at Warriston

MARLING - (Ens) Rosina
Alexandra (née Darlow) BSc,
aged 73, pencefully at home
on 2nd May after a long
struggle against ill-health,
wife of Ernest, mother of
Panella, typed and pensions.
Puneral at St Pani's Church,
Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells,
on Wednesday 14th May at
2.15 pm, Family flowers
only. Dotactions in lien to
Foundation for the Study of
Infant Deaths, 14 Halkin
Street, London SWIX 7DP.

HESELER - Simon Roland Liddell on May 3rd 1997 peacefully at home in Hexham, Northumberland Greatly loved father of Alexandra and Joanna. Committen private Service of Thankspiving at St John Los, Harhum, on Thursday May 15th at 2.15 pm. KERK WATSON - On 4th May 1997, Sobin Reir Watson of Kelvin Court, Glasgow. Fuheral private.

LANGMAID Charles
Langmaid F.R.C.S. (former
Consultant Manus Engage)
on May 4th in Ms 84th year.
Husband of the late Oign
and Eather of Paul, Ralen
and Sidents and grandfather
of Thnothy, Emma Jonethan
and Bryony, Function service
of Thnothy, Emma Jonethan
and Bryony, Function of Thursday
Newport Road, Cardiff on
Thursday 15th May at
3.00pm. A private consultan
will follow, Family flowers
and december House of
Function Roads, 23 Stanwell
Road, Penarth, Vale of
Glahorypa CFG 2EY. All
and Son 01222 484506.

LLOVD - Communey American (note Cismence) peacefully on 5th May 1997 aged 68 years after a long and paintal Sthess home with great courage and Shadiy, an example to everyone. Much adored nother of beby Alastair, Penelope and Christopher and grandmother of Fergus, Frederick, Jonathan and Courage, Reading to the half on 15th May 1997 at 2 pm at Holy Trimity Garrison Church, Clarement Road, Wishoot, to be half on the first process of the courage of the process of the couraging of the process of the couraging of the places to The Injured Jockey Fund of E. Sangeant & San, 61 St. Leonard Road, Windows, Long of the Sangeant & San, 61 St. Leonard Road, Windows, Long of the Sangeant & San, 61 St. Leonard Road, Windows, Long of the Sangeant & San, 61 St. Leonard Road, Windows, M. & Sangeant & San, 61 St. Leonard Road, Wi

McGLASTAN - Dr. Ainn Fletning MC, Cretz de Geenre with Felin, died pescentilly at house on May Sels in his Path year. Greatly beloved healand of Sasta Funeral at the London Scottine Chapte of Calenda, For Street, SWJ (Lennox Gardens entrance) at 10.45 am on Wednesday 14th May. Committal at Putney Vals 12.15 gas. Firement to Funny Vals

OGDEN - Eric perceptally at home after a short filmess. Much loved hashpad, better, friend and neighbour. Funeral Service and cremator at Enfield Crematorium at 2.45 pm Thursday May 15th Any enquiries to Abbott and English, (0181) 364-0000.

PEASE - Virginia Reth Primrose (née Rughes-Onslow) peacefully on 7th May aged 80 years. Mach loved mother of Dennil, Primrose and Jene. Private Cremation at Mortlake Crematorium on Tuesday 13th May at 10.30 am -Service of Thunksgiving on Tuesday 1st July at 11 am at Seint Columbs's, Pont Street Seint Columbs's, Pent Street. Family flowers only - but donations if desired to Help the Aged of JH. Kenyon, 49 Heriose Road, London WS. Tel: (0171) 937-0757.

(SIII) on May 3rd 1997
pescarolly in hospital and
Si. Huch loved husband of
May, a loving father and
grandfather. Cremation
private. Thanks giving
section at the Computer
Church. Kindford on
Wednesday 14th May at
2pm. No flowers but
donations to St John the
Baptist Church. Chegges
payable to Kindford P.C.C. of
W. Brider & Sen., Timbour.
Petworth, W. Sossex.

TULLEY - Eileen Norah pacestally at home on 7th May after a barre struggle. Much loved mother, grandmother and greet-Worth Crematorium
Thursday 19th May at
430pm. Family flowers only
please, donations if dethed
to Marie Curie Hospice,
Harestone, clo W.A. Trealove,
187 Croydon Road,
Caterham, Survey.

TURNBULL - Tommy, DFC.
Beloved humband of Mary,
much loved father and
grandfather. On 2nd Mary
1997 peacefully star a brief
iffness. Festeral leaves at la
Thomas Aquinas Chursh,
Bietchley, Bucks, at 12.30pm
on Wednesday, 14th May, No
Elowest please. Douations to on Wednesday 14th May, No Slowers please. Donations to Ward 15, Militon Keynez Hospital tel: 01908 660033.

MEMORIAL SERVICES ELVIN - A memorial to commemorate the life of Margaret flivin will take place on Priday 16th May in the Lealie Stephen Boom, Tshrifty Hall, Cambridge at 5pm. All friends welcome. No P. Collin Tickes bought & sold Whatleday debestures bought & sold 0171 821 6616

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ALL TICKETS Windleson '97, Winsbledon VI, Boyal Ancot, Ryder Cop, Grand Pric Worlflydde Cricket, Mildelens; Sevens Plaington Cop Flank, Frenc Open Tunske, U2, M. Jackson, Jaminopale, Glastoshovy Plantana, Salama de, ALL SOGI UM EVENTS R174-247 A192 8171 247 4123 MERSHGTON WQ. Quiet humay news house, 2/3 heds, 2 backs, he sweep, he Middinie, 39e, 6450ps. 0171 938 4158/ 01932 842705.

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#### OBITUARIES

# GENERAL SIR JOHN GIBBON

General Sir John Gibbon, GCB, OBE, Master General of Ordnance, 1974-77, died on May 7. -aged 79. He was born on September 21, 1917.

ohn Gibbon was the epitome of the Whitehall Warrior, but in no derogatory sense. After seeing almost continuous active service throughout the Second World War, he rose from lieutenant-colonei to full general in the War Office and Ministry of Defence with only two short breaks away from the corridors of military power in 26 years. He was a master Whitehall tactician and could just as easily have risen to Permanent Under-Secretary in the Civil Service as to Master-General of Ordnance in the Army. He was also a true Gunner with a great pride in his regiment.

John Houghton Gibbon was the son of Brigadier J. H. Gibbon, the famous rowing coach, and became an enthusiastic oarsman himself. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, before following in his father's footsteps to a commission in the Royal Artillery just before war was declared in 1939. He joined the 2nd Royal Horse Artillery and went with them to France in the BEF, and then to the Middle East where he gained his. early battle experience in the débacle in Greece in 1941 while he was the regimental adjutant.

In Auchinleck's Crusader offensive in November 1941, he was Staff Captain RA at the headquarters of 30 Corps, working very closely with Mike-Carver (later Field Marshal Lord Carver) in General Willoughby Norrie's tactical headquarters during the intense fighting around Sidi Rezegh and Tobruk, and during Rommel's harum-scarum dash for the frontier wire", Gibbon made an early name for himself as an imperturbably efficient operational staff officer.

After surviving the disastrous battles Gazzia and the retreat to El Alamein, he was promoted to GSO2 in HQ 30 Corps in time for the battles of Alam Halfa and El Alamein, and took part in the advance to Tripoli before returning to the Gunners as brigade major of the 6th Army Group Royal Artillery during the battle for Tunis. He continued in this post after the leap to Sicily, the crossing of the Straits of Messina to mainland Italy and the advance to the River Sangro.

Early in 1944 he became GSOI Royal



Artillery at Montgomery's 21st Army Group headquarters, and served throughout the whole of the Normandy and North West Europe campaign. Immediately after the war, he returned for a short time to regimental duty before going to Palestine as the Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General of the 6th Airborne Division in 1946. He came back to England to join the Sandhurst instructional staff when the academy re-opened in 1947:

Apart from Gibbon's time with the 2nd Royal Horse Artillery in 1941, most of his extensive battle experience had been on the staff rather than with troops. He demonstrated, however, that he was equally good with them in another key appointment as a

ifeurenant-colonel on the Q Operations Staff at the time of Suez. His last service with troops came in 1959 when he commanded the 6th Field Regiment for two years in the British Army of the Rhine and finally the 3rd Infantry Brigade in Cyprus.

His high level staff appointments started in 1962 when he was appointed Director of Defence Plans to Mountbatten, with whom he established a close rapport during the amalgam-ation of the three Service departments in the present Ministry of Defence building and the establishment of the Defence Staff. A year at the Imperial Defence College in 1965 saw him appointed Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and Director of the Defence Operations Staff.

He was a tough, demanding and hard-working Secretary to the Chiefs of Staff during the turbulent years of Denis Healey's Defence Reviews and the withdrawal from East of Suez, with the Borneo and Aden campaigns in full swing at the time as well, He was no respecter of persons, and it surprised many people that he survived one particularly difficult encounter with the First Sea Lord, His ability saw him through to become the Army's Director of Staff Duties where his ruthlessness was an 45981.

His final posts in his distinguished staff career were as Vice-Chief of Defence Staff in 1969, and then as Master-General of Ordnance on the Army Board in 1974. His aptitude for high level negotiation and his ability to understand and work with senior civil servants enabled him to handle the technological complexities of his department with sureness of touch, despite his lack of "weapons" and industrial background. He never mellowed while in the Service, driving the weapons staffs of the Ministry of Defence and the contractors in British industry with his merciless energy and cutting repartee until he retired in 1977.

Gibbon's greatest strength was his ability to get things done. After his retirement he became a pillar of strength in his regiment, advising and helping successive Directors of Artiliery. He mellowed at last, and became a much respected and loved member of the Royal Regiment of Artillery's pantheon of elders.

in 1951 he married Brigid (Bid) Rosamund. She survives him with their son who followed his father and grandfather into the Gunners.

#### SIR MICHAEL SHERSBY

Sir Michael Shersby. Conservative MP for Exbridge since 1972, died yesterday from an apparent heart attack aged 64. He was born on February 17, 1933.

SIR MICHAEL SHERSBY was a Tory knight of the suburbs. He was born in his Uxbridge constituency, educated near by and began his political career as chairman of Uxbridge Young Conservatives. Although his backbench activities were wide-ranging. he was careful never to neglect his base and he opposed vigorously a fifth runway for Heathrow Airport and protested frequently about the burden of illegal immigrants having to be carried by Hillingdon Council, which embraces Uxbridge. He was also a defender of the Green Belt,

His work as a constituency Member was one reason why he survived the general election massacre which destroyed the majorities of many of his seniors. He seemed safe enough at the beginning of the campaign, defending a majority of more than 12,000, with an owner-occupier rate approaching 70 per cent, thanks to a large extent to council house sales. But there were anxious moments at the count before he struggled back with a majority cut to 724.

His first contest at Uxbridge had also been close. In the winter of 1972, with the Heath Government unpopular, the bookmakers made Labour favourites to win the byelection caused by the death of journalist and broadcaster Charles Curran. But Shersby fought a tremendous campaign and edged home by 1.078. Although demographic changes helped to build up his majority, at one point to more than 15,000, he never forgot that he had first fought Uxbridge as a marginal and worked the constituency accordingly - for which his party had reason to be grateful in the early hours of May 2.

He was one of the most distinctive figures in successive Parliaments. He was tall, handsome with fair hair which gradually turned grey, dedicated to his chosen profession and unfailingly polite in an arena where courtesy is sometimes in short supply. He served diligently on many committees, where he was regarded as exceptionally fairminded for a man so devoted to his party.

Julian Michael Shersby was

Sir Alan Richmond.

mechanical engineer and

teacher, died on April II

aged 77. He was born on

October 12, 1919.

tions which he headed.

Coventry University) he over-

saw the building and develop-

ment of the college and was

particularly proud of the fine

library he built up there. He

recognised the importance to students of good library facili-

ties and later, as Principal of

Strode College in Somerset,

He was knighted in 1969 for

parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation of England

born in Ickenham, Middlesex. the son of a Port of London executive officer. He was educated at John Lyon School. Harrow-on-the-Hill.

He started his working life as an employee of Central Office before becoming secretary to various trade and professional organisations. He was elected to Paddington Borough Council while still in his twenties and later became a member of Westminster City

In the House, he promoted various Bills dealing with subjects ranging from gaming through parks regulations to Town and Country amenities. He was also a consistent defender of the rights of the Falkland Islanders. In fact, he was a Falklands

supporter before Margaret Thatcher, A visit to the islands in 1981 resulted in his warning that the withdrawal of HMS Endurance from the South Atlantic would give the wrong impression to Argentina - which it did. In 1983, after the successful recovery of the is-lands, he promoted the British Nationality (Falkland Islands)

Another abiding interest was the sugar industry. He had been director-general of the Sugar Bureau before entering the House and as an MP he became its parliamentary adviser.

Since 1989 he had also been

and Wates - a job previously held by Sir Eldon Griffiths and was a dedicated although always fair-minded defender of police interests. He acted as teller for the aves in two votes calling for the reintroduction of capital punishment in 1994 and also regularly voted against any lowering of the homosexual age of consent.

Shersby never held ministerial office. The nearest he got to the promotion ladder was in his early days in the House, serving as parliamentary private secretary to Michael Heseltine when he was Minister for Aerospace during the Heath Government. His failure to join the Thatcher camp in the leadership battle of 1975 continued to be regarded as a black mark throughout her successive governments.

He never struggled for office, however, but served unostentationally on bodies such as the Chairmen's Panel and the Public Accounts Committee. He was chairman of the Police Parliamentary Group, of the all-party British Falklands Islands Group and an executive member of the

UK Commonwealth Group. He was knighted in 1995. Michael Shersby married in 1958 Barbara Barrow, who had her own career as a pharmacist. She survives him with their son and daughter.

#### WIJAYANANDA DAHANAYAKE

 Wijayananda : Dahanayake, former Lanka, died on May 6 aged 94. He was born on on October 22, 1992.

THERE have been few more colourful or controversial Sri. Lankan politicians than
y Wijayananda Dahanayake.
\* He became Prime Minister in September 1959, when the Oxford-educated Prime Minister Solomon Dias Bandaranaike was assassinated by a Buddhist monk. By December 1959, the party Dahanayake represented, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, had sacked him and he, in turn, promptly sacked five Cabinet ministers. But amazingly he survived a vote of no confidence by asingle vote in December 1959. He then caused universal

surprise by dissolving Parliament the next day. He created a party, and went to the polls

and became the first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to lose his own seat. When he moved out from the Prime Minister's official residence, he carried only a small suitcase and preferred to walk out of the premises and then take a taxi to the railway station, rather than use an official car. It was this simplicity which

endeared him to many. He quipped about his humble status, saying that since he slept on a mai on the floor, he would not fall off luxury beds. Wijayananda Dahanayake was born at Richmond Hill, Galle, in the southern province Educated at Richmond



he qualified as a teacher. By 1935, he was elected to the Galle municipal council, and four years later became the College, Galle, and St Thom-Mayor of Galle. He was as's College, Mount Lavinia, popular with the ordinary Mayor of Galle. He was man and reduced taxes on bicycles and rickshaws to one rupee per year, which won him many votes.

during his very successful command of

L (Nery) Battery in BAOR during the

1950s. Nevertheless, he was a man who

enjoyed abrasive situations. His con-

temporaries on the staff, where his

quick, clear mind was a great asset,

could return his anger with interest,

but subordinates often found him

difficult unless they, too, had a combat-

His War Office career started in 1951 with the key staff appointment of GSO2 Staff Duties, in which he was

responsible for the day-to-day deploy-

ment of the Army world wide. He next

attended the Joint Services Staff Coli-

ege before returning to the War Office

ive streak in them.

In 1947, he stood against one of the richest men in Sri Lanks, H. W. Amarasuriva. for the parliamentary seat in Galle. He told his supporters that he was banging against a money tree, and that it was left to them to pick up the money which would fall from it, as he would not be spending any money on the elections.

He won with a handsome majority, and soon afterwards oined the Trotskyist LSSP. But in 1952, he accorded a reception in Galle to the new Prime Minister, Dudley Senanayake, and was promptsacked by the Trotskyites for breaking the party line. He then formed the Bhasa Peramuna (Language Front).

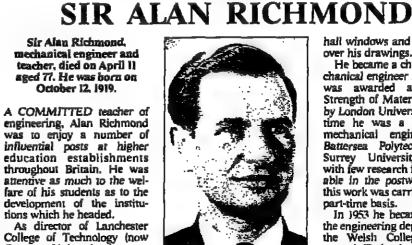
which was one of the constituent parties of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (People's United Front), which won the general election in 1956.

He was made Minister of Education by the new Prime Minister, Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, and earned the nickname "Bun Uncle" for giving a free bun and a glass of milk to all school children as a mid-day meal. He will also be remembered for elevating two Buddhist educational institutions to the rank of university.

He holds the record for the longest speech ever made in a Sri Lankan legislature, having spoken for 1312 hours during the Budget debate. He had many disagreements with Bandaranaike, and once said in Parliament: "I do not love thee. Banda dear, the reason why is very clear; I do not love thee, Banda dear, because you change from year to year."

It was during his time in office as Education Minister that English was replaced as the medium of instruction by Sinhala and Tamil, which led to lack of communication between the two main communities in Sri Lanka. It is one of the causes which led to the current war in the north and east of Sri Lanka which has claimed more than 50,000

lives during the past 13 years. again developed an extensive He was always seen as the library. representative of the ordinary his services to education. people, and used every opportunity to live up to that reputation. During Mrs which also included voluntary service on various boards and Sirimavo Bandaranaike's committees of the Council of term as Prime Minister in the National Academic Awards mid-1970s when there was a and membership of the Fire shortage of textiles. Daha-Service committee which led to the Holroyd report. He was nayake created a sensation by a member of the steering seeking his own unique methcommittee of the Open Univod of protest; he walked into ersity, an appointment he Parliament wearing only a particularly enjoyed. He was loin cloth. He retired from also the author of two books of politics in 1989.



problems in thermodynamics

for engineering students. Alan James Richmond was born in Katowice, Poland, and after an education in Berlin and in Switzerland, joined the engineering industry in Britain as an apprentice. He obtained all his degrees and engineering qualifications as a part-time student while carrying out a full-time job. He was always to retain a great sympathy for those following a

similar path. He studied engineering during the evenings and week-ends as an external student of London University and was eventually awarded his degree in 1945 - despite the fact that during one examination a

hall windows and scattered it over his drawings.

He became a chartered me chanical engineer in 1947 and was awarded a PhD in Strength of Materials in 1954 by London University. By this time he was a lecturer in mechanical engineering at Battersea Polytechnic (now Surrey University). Again, with few research funds available in the postwar climate, this work was carried out on a part-time basis. In 1953 he became head of

the engineering department at the Welsh College of Advanced Technology, Cardiff, from where he moved on, in 1958, to become Principal of Coventry Technical College. A year later he moved again to take up the post of director of the Lanchester College of Technology.
In 1962, at the age of 52, he

became Principal of Strode College in Street, Somerset a challenge which he met with enthusiasm.

On his retirement from fulltime teaching, he began a third career as a commercial arbitrator, passing the exami-nations of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in 1983. He also worked as a consultant for engineering problems in fields such as heating.

He leaves a widow, Sally, whom he married in 1951, and bomb blew the glass out of the a stepdaughter and a stepson.

### PERSONAL COLUMN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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TO MLACE NOTICES POR THIS SECTION

mbiect to confirmation and should be

ORDER TO LEAVE ENGLAND. Prince Carol of Rumania has been requested by the Home Secretary to leave England.

PRINCE CAROL.

In a dispatch which has been delayed by the Rumanian Censor, our Balkans Correspondent describes the great meeting of the Tsaranist (Peasant) Party at Alba Julia last Sunday. In later messages sent from Bucharest, he explains the significance of the strong resolutions passed at Alba Julia, which, he says are a warning to the Regents that, if they continue to maintain the present Cabinet in office, the agitation of the Opposition may end in a resort to violence. and perhaps an attempt to overthrow the Monarchy. Our Correspondent makes it clear that at no time during the proceedings at Alba Julia was any reference made to Prince Carol or any desire expressed for his return.

LIEUT. COM. KENWORTHY (Hull Central, Lah.) asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been called to the manifesto drawn up by Prince Carol of Rumania, now in this country, and printed in London, calling upon the people of Rumania to oust King Michael and recall Prince Carol to the throne; and whether he did not consider that action a

#### ON THIS DAY

May 9, 1928

经国际系统 Carol of Rumania. (1893-1953) was the controver-

sial King of Rumania from 1930 to 1940 when he was forced to abdicate. He died in exile. His earlier life had been stormy and marked by domestic scandal involving among others, his long-time mistress, Madame Lupescu, whom he eventually married

breach of the comity of nations which would justify him in requesting Prince Carol to leave this country forthwith.

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS. Home Secretary (Twickenham).-The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. After consultation with my right bon friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I have caused Prince Carol to be informed that his presence in this country is no longer welcome and that he should terminate his visit without

Mr. E. BROWN (Leith, L.) asked whether Prince Carol was granted a permit to reside in this country, and, if so, when it expired, SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS.-Prince Carol was allowed to land on April 28 last, for a

temporary visit of two months.
LIEUT.-COM. KENWORTHY asked whether, when permission was given by the Home Secretary to Prince Carol to land, any assurance was invited from him that he would not engage in intrigues or political activities in this country.

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS.-No. Sir. LIEUT, COM. KENWORTHY .- Why not? Mr. THURTLE, (Shoreditch, Lab.) asked whether there was any foundation in fact for the statement made in the Morning Post and other newspapers that day to the effect that this so-called Rumanian plot was really only a

"stunt" organized by certain newspapers.
SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS.—I can only say that I have received an intimation from Prince Carol, who was served with my request to leave early this morning, that he is writing to me on the whole subject

Miss WILKINSON (Middlesbrough E., Lab.) asked whether the Home Secretary treated Royalty differently in this matter of propaganda from ordinary chizens.

SIR W. JOYNSON-HICKS.—It is quite obvious from the action I have taken that I

make no distinction.

#### **NEWS**

#### Blair demands all-out action

■ Tony Blair cast aside tradition and formality and demanded discipline and hard work as the first Labour Cabinet meeting for 18 years approved an all-action programme of 22 Bills to become law in a marathon parliamentary session.

The measures, including education bills to drive up standards, an attack on crime and a shake-up of the health service, as well as the plan to establish a Scottish parliament, were given the go ahead at a two-hour gathering ....... Page 1

#### Women dancers get the blues

■ Women bailroom dancers from Oxford University will be eligible for a full blue when they quickstep on to the floor in the annual Varsity match against Cambridge tomorrow. The women's blues committee at Oxford has decided to upgrade the sport from half-blue to full-blue status.... ... Page 1

#### **BCCI** man jailed

Abbas Gokal. 61, was jailed for 14 years for his role in sinking the Bank of Credit and Commerce in what is believed to be the world's biggest fraud..... ... Page i

#### **Burglar wins**

A burglar has successfully sued a farmer who broke his jaw with a kick after he caught him stealing roof states. Stanley Wiles, 63, must pay damages to Malcolm Phillips, 37.... ...Page 3

#### Police guard school

Police were drafted onto the streets of west London after parents threatened revenge against five schoolboys accused of raping a nine-year-old girl ...... Page 5

#### Dogs quietened

Four dogs whose barking drove neighbours wild are living a quiet life after therapy sessions with an animal "psychiatrist". Magistrates threatened to remove the animals after Mark Bambrough protested...

#### Secret triplets

The parents of surrogate triplets said that they had had to keep their "blessings from God" a secret in the tense months leading .....Page 7 up to their birth...

#### Rich students only

The medical profession is in danger of again becoming a preserve of the rich, according to the students' committee of the British

#### HRT research

One million women are being asked to take part in a study of hormone replacement therapy. The project plans to answer questions about links with breast cancer and heart disease ..... Page 9

#### Bacon film in doubt A film being made about the art-

ist Francis Bacon, starring Derek Jacobi, may be halted by administrators of his estate...... Page 13 Yeltsin warns Nato

#### President Yeltsin issued a warn-

ing that Nato's plans to expand eastwards had provoked the most serious dispute between Russia and the United States since the 1962 Cuban crisis ...... Page 14 New Zaire crisis

#### Several divisions of Angolan government troops, supported by he-

licopters and tanks, were massing along the Zaire border close to Matadi, the port which is Kinshasa's lifeline. .. Page 15 Oil prospectors

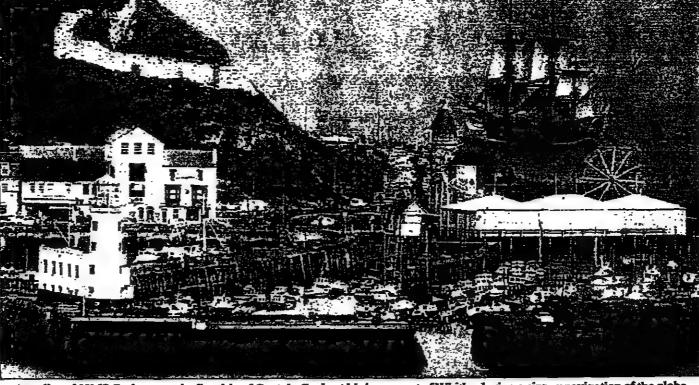
International oil companies are renting an office in the impoverished Afghanistan city of Kandahar, headquarters of the Taleban Islamic militia, seeking a stake in prospects to the north..... Page 16

#### Caribbean crime

The Caribbean islands are battling a crime wave, and an increase in the deportation of criminals from the United States Medical Association........Page 8 is largely to blame........ Page 17

#### Blue Peter bans child sweeps

■ Blue Peter, was accused of "political correctness gone mad" after refusing to film children dressed as chimney sweeps because they had blackened faces. BBC producers had planned a feature on a Dickensian festival, organised by the Rochester and Medway Council, but decided that the spectacle of children covered with soot might cause racial offence...



A replica of HMS Endeavour, the flagship of Captain Cook, at his home port of Whithy during a circumnavigation of the globe

#### BUSINESS

Private finance: The Government moved to streamline the workings of the Private Finance Initiative. removing a key obstacle to having billions of pounds of privatelyfunded public sector projects approved speedily..... ....Page 25

Warning: Shares in BTR fell by 30'2p to 231p after the engineering conglomerate produced its second profit warning in a year .... Page 25

Noel Edmonds: Toad, the car security company, has joined forces with the TV presenter in a deal that offers him a shareholding potentially worth £2.4 million .... Page 25 Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 42.9 to 4580.4. Sterling fell from 100.3 to

98.8 after fails from \$1.6358 to

\$1.6205 and from DM2.8126 to

DM2.7678.

#### SPORT

Football: Stuart Pearce, the England and Notingham Forest defender, is to relinquish his role as caretaker manager and will be replaced by Dave Bassett, the general ... Page 48

Cricket: The new chairman of selectors, David Graveney, has not seen a ball bowled this week despite clocking up hundreds of mo-.... Page 44

Motor racing: After the first, unofficial practice for the Monaco Grand Prix an Englishman, Johnny Herbert, was fastest of the 22 entrants in his Sauber

Fishing: The British record committee has refused to accept a 99lb cattish as a record for the species unless proof can be provided that it was legally stocked \_\_\_\_\_ Page 48

#### ARIS

Bloody revenge: The RSC in Stratford unveils a new production of The Spanish Tragedy that does not quite rise to the bloodthirsty mood of Kyd's 16th-century revenge drama...

Pop albuma: The Big Bang spirit of Nirvana lives on in the new Foo Fighters' album, while Robert Cray offers more of his well-organised

Remix menia: Madonna, Michael Jackson, Suzanne Vega and Tori Amos are all doing it - dancing to the computer's tune....

New releases: Anthony Hopkins is the artist at the centre of Surviving Picasso, now released on video: Maria Callas is in line voice on a CD inspired by the West End play. Master Class ..

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

MAGAZINE

on his role as

CAR 97

enthusiasts

Count Vronsky

Sean Bean, British

movie heart-throb,

in Anna Karenina

Britain's new mecca.

IOF Harley Davigson

New dawn; "We are most grateful for what the last government did, but it's the beginning of the story, not the end," Frank Field, the minister charged with welfare reform, meets Valerie Grove \_\_\_\_Page 18 Centre stage: After years in the doldrums, Russia's once-legendary Bolshoi Theatre is determined to return to the centre of the world ... Page 19

Write stuff: Joseph Connolly spills the beans on what happened at the most stylish literary bash of all, the Authors of the Year party . Page 19

#### EDUCATION ... In the post: Every school in England will soon receive a letter from the new Secretary of State: a sneak

Untenable: Is it fair that go-ahead academics who have won advancement, are the ones whose jobs are now at risk? A lecturer wonders why he may lose life tenure Page 39

Gary Kasparov observed after his defeat by a computer that the machine seemed able to think for itself. But intelligence does not only consist of calculation: it also embraces memory, sensibility, intuition, and the ability to ask the right questions as well as find the right answers. The world's woes do not stem from machines, but from the people who make them. - Il Messaggero, Rome

#### TYLISTINGS

Proview: Neil Pearson and Joanna Roth as lovers 250 miles apart. See You Friday (ITV, 8.30pm). Review: Matthew Bond on a severed leg and other stomach-churners..... Page 47

OPHNICH

#### The freedom files

The Prime Minister has made trust his theme; a Freedom of Information Act would help to convince voters that the Government will keep cupboards clean \_\_\_\_Page 21

#### Footsteps to emu

By the autumn, it will be time to say whether Britain will join the first wave. Staying out then will not preclude later membership. The best defence is forcefully expressed views from the business community and the public ......Page 21

#### The game's afoot

Moscow is playing a desperate game to sabotage attempts to reestablish old patterns of trade. The New Game is being played with little regard for old rules ... Page 21

#### COLUMNS

#### MATTHEW PARRIS

Jonathan Swift thought that "the bulk of mankind is as well qualified for flying as for thinking". Samuel Butler agreed. "The public buys its opinions as it buys its meat, or takes in its milk: on the principle that it is cheaper to do this than to keep a cow." I share this suspicion of democracy .... Page 20 📹 DANIEL JOHNSON

Willetts, Letwin and Duncan Smith all see Europe as the great issue of the day. Despite defeat, despite the Zeitgeist, the musketeers are still the cutting edge ...

#### PHILIP HOWARD 1. Lo, the Queen of Sheba hath come amongst us Mediaites again:

and got her name once more into the tabloids of stone ...... Page 20 CETTARIES

#### General Sir John Gibbon, Mas-

ter-General of Ordnance; Sir Michael Shersby, Conservative MP for Uxbridge; Wijayananda Dahanayake, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka; Sir Alan Richmond, mechanical Page 23

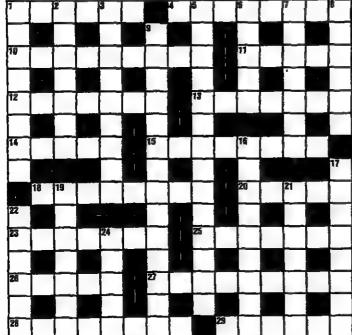
#### LEHERS

HOOR TOBAY

Tory leader; independent Bank of England; law's failings; John Major and Rab Butler; Roy Strong's diaries: exploding rats; nesting habits...

**6** 

#### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,475



ACROSS

- 1 Wet swan seen on reservoir (6). 4 Tissue that can make nose un-
- comfortable (8). 10 Recognise movement in mass (9). 11 In more ways than one, they may

make a fine spray (5).

- 12 Quiet part of Spain is ideal (?). 13 Cardinal, say, about to contribute
- to the collection (7). 14 Make exultant. finalising pre vious answer (5).
- 15 Fast road into airport on the way in boisterous fashion (8). IS Start to grow a popular fruit (8). 20 Half-heartedly try to influence
- рсст (5). 23 A new attempt by artists to show various animals (7).
- 25 Gangster to be fearful of? So am I 26 Sudden raid to bring back prisoners netting nothing (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,474

WITMSTICAL
S A G L
SSY HOUDING
B M 0

- 27 Cried by turns, feeling loss of parting perhaps (9). 28 Feasts damn easy to organise (4-
- 29 Admiration produced by puzzle

- I Sort out import price he'd fiddled
- 2 Island bird grabbing some worm in, or caterpillar (7). 3 Lights so ideal for tree? (9).
- 5 Girl's date is a flop (14). 6 One Pole or another East Euro-
- pean type (5). 7 Get ready to work where animal's
- housed (7). 8 Tender as Ophelia was to Lacrtes
- 9 Reason for entering huge wave that's off Irish coast (6.8). 16 Declaration of intent has obvious
- omission, lacking sense of pur-17 Newsman in anny personnel
- carrier (S) 19 Berth set up in accommodation. for members (7).
- 2) It helps one keep up one's reading m.
- 22 Professional man beginning to panic over crime (6). 24 Quick attack captures pawn (5).

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> > NEWSPAPERS

#### FORECAST

☐ General: Wales and central and eastern England should start bright or sunny. Other parts of England are expected to be more cloudy, per-haps with some showers. Cloud will increase everywhere and from late morning onwards showers are expected to be become fairly frequent in most places. The showers may be heavy at times, with thunder here and there. Skies will clear during the

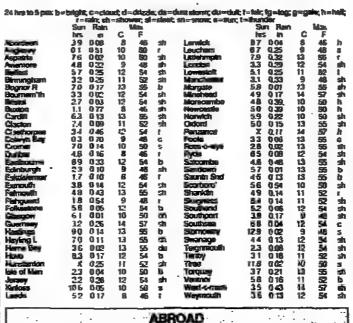
Scotland and Northern Ireland will start with sunny intervals and scattered showers, but the showers will become more frequent and heavier during the day. There will be thunder in places and some sleet and snow on hills. The best chance of sunshine will be in southern

Scotland.

Temperature will generally be near the May average. ☐ London, E Anglia, Midlands, E England, Central N England, NE England: bright or surny start.

Showers developing. Thunder possible. Wind west moderate. Cool in the showers. Max 14C (57F).

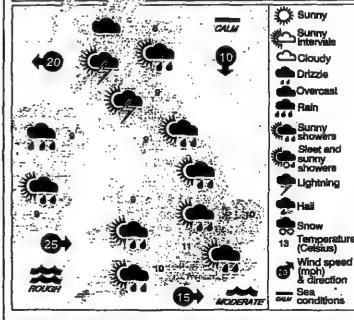
periods and scattered showers with an occasional longer spell of rain. AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY



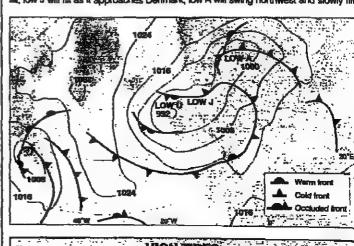
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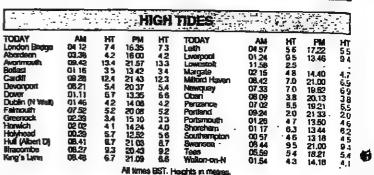
SE England, Central S England, Channel Islas, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isla of Mant bright early but showers becoming more frequent as the day progresses. Thunder possible. Wind west moderate or tresh. Cool in the showers. Max 13C ☐ Borders, Edinburgh & Dun-dee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Mo-ray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyfi, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: bright at first. Showers

becoming more frequent and wide-spread during the day. Thunder expected with sleet and snow on the hills. Wind easterly moderate, Cool. Max 10C (50F). Outlook a midure of sunny



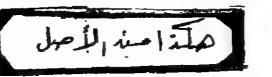
Changes to chart below from noon: low U will ramain centred over Britain and slowly sit; low J will fill as it approaches Denmark; low A will swing northwest and slowly till





HOURS OF BARKNESS London 8.37 pm to 5.17 am Bristol 8.46 pm to 5.27 am Edinburgh 9.08 pm to 5.10 em Manchester 8.53 pm to 5.17 am

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TODAY

**ECONOMICS** 

Anatole Kaletsky's second thoughts on Bank independence **PAGE 29** 



**EDUCATION** 

Breath of hope for asthmatic schoolchildren PAGE 39



SPORT

Smell of money in the air on streets of Monaco **PAGES 40-48** 

TELEVISION AND RADIO **PAGES** 

46, 47

**BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft** 

FRIDAY MAY 9 1997

# BTR's shares slump after second profit warning



Strachan: sterling worry

SHARES in BTR slumped by 14 per cent yesterday after the company gave its second profit warning within a year. The price slide wiped £1.6 billion off the value of Britain's shares fell from 267 2p to 231p, but one major holder chose to bail out at just 2151 2p.

Ian Strachan, chief executive, blames BTR's disappointing performance on the strong pound and weaker than exand Australia. His warning prompted heavy selling of the

broker, bought 80 million shares, 2 per cent of the total. from an unknown investor at 215p and later sold them on for

BTR said that sales in the first half of 1997 will be hit by £300 million assuming currencies stay at current levels. to suffer a E35 million vinced that the group had overcome its problems

The message from the com-pany is that it is suffering from any and Australia, which account for 30 per cent of sales, and that the problems have been exacerbated by the strength of sterling.

global restructuring. So far, 80 per cent of the intended disposals have been executed and the City had been conRennardson, of Credit Lyonnais, said: "As far as the

and gear drives unit, and the

Mirriees sale completes BTR's

Last May, BTR said that it expected lower first-half operlanger term is concerned, BTR ating profits because of poor is doing all the right things." performance by an Asian divi-Driving its restructuring sion, but two months ago it forward, the group yesterday hought Parvex from GEC-Alsthom and sold Mirrless reported better than expected results for 1996 and said that it was making good progress on Bluckstone to the Anglocost-cutting and restructuring. French joint venture. Parvex is Analysis yesterday cut 1997 profit estimates by about 10 Hansen, the industrial motors

exit from diesel engine manufacturing. Financial terms were not disclosed. Paul Buysse, the BTR execu-

tive director responsible for power drives, said: "The power drives market is being driven by demand for higher productivity and automation This market is developing rapidly and we are seeing the convergence of power with intelligent control."

Toad asks

TV star

to make it

tamous By Fraser Nelson

TOAD, the car security company, has joined forces with Noel Edmonds in a deal that offers the television personality a shareholding potential-

ly worth £2.4 million if he makes the company a house-

hold name within two years.

agreed to sell Toad his own car

security company for

£200,000 in an all-share deal.

will promote Toad through his

various activities, which range

from his Crinkley Bottom

theme park to producing London's Proms in the Park.

He will receive the maxi-

mum payout only if Toad

shares pass 240p, and if Toad

becomes a familiar name to 30

Chris Evans, the biotech en-

trepreneur who floated Toad,

said the move was designed to

reverse the collapse in Toad's

share price, down from 115p to

Mr Edmonds said his in-

volvement went far beyond a

celebrity endorsement. "I will

be right in the firing line taking

the business forward," he said.

Toad shares rose 12p to 4lp

39p since flotation in 1995.

per cent of Britons by 1999.

In addition, Mr Edmonds

Mr Edmonds has also

Pennington, page 27

# Labour aims for billions in PFI projects

By PHILIP BASSETT AND OLIVER AUGU

THE new Labour Government yesterday moved to plan the 12 proposals for PFI streamline the workings of reform included in Labour's streamline the workings of the Private Finance Initia business mentions.

tive, removing a key obstacle Mr Bates, an original mento having billions of pounds her of the first Private Finance of privately funded public Pauel which was set up to sector projects approved oversee the PFI, is no report by the 13 and the Consequent is

lately end the universal testing of all PFI schemes, a move which was warmly welcomed by business. This was coupled with the announcement of a private sector led review of the whole PFI process, due to be completed within six weeks. This has the clear arm of improving the efficiency of public-private partnership on

y projects. Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, announced that Makcolm Bates, chairman of Pearl Assurance and Premier Farnell and a former deputy managing director at GEC, would conduct a rapid review of the current arrange-

the foreign exchanges yester-

day after speculation that the

Government wants to rejoin

the European exchange-rate

The pound tumbled 4.5

pfennigs to close at DM2.7678.

while sterling's trade-weight-

ed index fell to 98.8 from 100.3.

The pound also finished L5

cents lower against the dollar

at \$1.6205. In contrast, the FT-

SE 100 soared 42.9 points to a

closing record of 4,580.4.

tracking the recovery on Wall

Street after its 140-point fall on.

The fall in the pound came.

after a report overnight sug-

gested that Labour would

consider re-entering the ERM at DM2.50: But Treasury

attributed to an unnamed

source. Most analysts say it is

unlikely Labour intends to re-

officials quickly moved to deny the story which was:

Wednesday.

mechanism at DM2.50.

ments, taking as a starting

June 13 and the Government is The Treasury will immed expected to implement any recommended changes speedity. The shake up is likely to include setting specific timetables for projects and reviewing current legislation along the

lines of the 12-point plan in the Labour mamifesto for business. The Government said it was ending universal testing for potential private finance projects, which it said had been a "recipe for frustration

Departments will now be able to avoid spending time and money trying to develop models for private finance which they know will be unworkable, although it was made clear that this did not

because it goes against policy. But there is a suspicion that

the Government may want to

derive some short-term sup-port from the expectation of

further rate rises after the

latest CBI distributive trades

survey suggested that high

street spending had acceler-

ated again during April.
Sir Brian Molfat, chairman

of British Steel, yesterday

weighed in on the growing

debate over the pound warn-

ing that its current level affects

8.5 million jobs in the manu-

facturing sector. He claimed

that the attempt to control

inflation through interest

rates was having an exagger-

ated impact on manufacturing

competitiveness where few in-

flationary pressures existed.

The pound is expected to

talk sterling lower.

Pound dives over

**ERM** speculation

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE POUND nosedived on enter the ERM at this stage

ments' capital budgets.

Mr Robinson said: "We know the thing hasn't delivered. We know there are obstacles in the way. Most of them, have been created by government. We need to work out what to do now.

Although £7 billion worth o projects have been approved under the PFI, work has been painfully slow. The biggest impact from Labour's changes will be felt in the health sector, where there are more than 80 new tenders awaiting approval A Treasury spokesman health. The large district hos-

pitals are first." The biggest projects des-tined for a quick sign-off are the £90 million rebuilding of the 520-bed Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon and the E170 million Norwich and Norfolk hospital providing 700 beds, the biggest PFI venture in the NHS.

The PFI scheme was suposed to aid the funding of new hospitals. But rather than speeding up the construction, the PFI scheme brought hospital development almost to a standstill because of the complexity of the tendering process and concerns about trusts excooding their legal powers by

entering into large contracts.

Charles Cox, chairman of the CBI's public procurement committee, said: "The abolition of universal testing is a major policy leap for PFI picking up the CBI's recommendation for a more focused approach to project selection."

Taylor Woodrow, the builder, welcomed the changes. A spokesman said: "We have had problems particularly in the health sector, not so much in road building. At the moment, we are the preferred bidder on five hospitals. All have taken a long time because PFI projects in this area have had a very

long learning curve. The main problem has been that the banks decided they cannot proceed because they don't believe that the NHS trusts have the power to sign contracts. The changes will open up a huge market in the health sector."

Stagecoach escapes with £900,000 fine



per cent, to around E1.2 billion.

but some said that the market

Gokal's wife, Rukaiyna, and daughter, Sukaiyna, arrive at the Old Bailey yesterday

### **BCCI fraud reaps Gokal** record 14 years in jail

THE Pakistani shipping ty-coon who crippled the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was yesterday sent to prison for 14 years, in the steepest sentence of its kind to be meted out by a British court.

Abbas Gokal, 61; former chairman of the Gulf Group, siphoned \$1.2 billion (£750 million) from BCCI through a maze of offshore companies, threatening ruin for thou-sands of bank depositors, including the Western Isles council in Scotland. He passes into history as Britain's biggest fraudster, his case one of vast complexity.

Sentencing Gokal at the Old Bailey, Mr Justice Buxton said that his actions had threatened the integrity of the entire international banking system. Gokal had lied repeatedly during the trial, showed no remorse, and had cost the Pennington, page 27 | English taxpayer many mil-



Gokal: 'unscrupulous'

lions of pounds. He was ordered to pay £2.9 million out of his personal assets within two years, or face an additional three years in prison.

However, no compensation order was awarded in favour of BCCI creditors, who received a first dividend of 24.5p in the pound last December. and can anticipate a second

the pound. The liquidators of BCCI are pursuing civil litigation aimed at recovering up to \$10 billion. They hope to learn this month whether they will be allowed to proceed with a claim against the Bank of England, which closed BCCI down in 1991.

Christopher Morris, the joint liquidator of BCCI, said: We will continue civil proceedings against Gokal and his associates worldwide."

Gokal was convicted last month of fraud and false accounting, at the conclusion of a 122-day trial that cost £4.5 million. His sentence far outstrips the previous record of ten years imposed on Peter Clowes, whose Barlow Clowes financial empire collapsed in 1988, at great cost to thousands of elderly investors. In 1995, Graham Durnford Ford, a solicitor, was jailed for ten years for stealing E8 million from the estates of deceased

clients. The Serious Fraud Office, which has successfully prosecuted in five consecutive cases linked to BCCI, said the sentence sent an emphatic message to would-be fraudsters.

Gokal's wife, Rukaiyna, and daughter, Sukaiyna, watched from the gallery, as the judge told Gokal that he was "an intelligent, sophisticated and unscrupulous man, who put the interests of yourself and your family before all else."

He conspired with BCC! officials to create a fraud on a massive scale, using the proceeds to fund an "extravagant and expensive" lifestyle. Huge sums were channeled from BCCI to keep his bankrupt

#### **BUSINESS TODAY**

Yield 3-5176 FTSE All share 2188-16 (+14.26) Nikker 20061.21 (+12.91)

Tokyo close Yen 123.75 NORTH SEA OIL

GOLD

London close ..... \$343.80 (\$340.95

#### Tax credits

Senior figures in Britain's pensions industry believe that Labour plans to abolish advance corporation tax credit in a move aimed a of income for the Government. Page 26

#### Sweet deal

Lonrho's break-up programme marched on with the sale of its 94.25 per cent stake in Lonrho Sugar Corporation, based in Swaziland, for 1.653 billion rand (£227 million). The sale to Illovo Sugars of South Africa creates Africa's largest sugar group. Page 31, Tempus 28

# HARDWOOD FLOORS WITH A DIFFERENCE



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Active families have special needs. Wicanders' floors make cleaning and care easy. Simply vacuum or wipe over with a damp mop to restore your floor to its natural beauty.

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BY FRATER NELSON

Pennington, page 27

STAGECOACH, the transport group that cancelled 2,000 trains on its South West Trains rail franchise this winter after making too many drivers redundant, has paid a £900,000 fine.

The company, which receives a state subsidy of £1 million a week to run the service, has escaped the special £1 million fine threatened by Opraf, the rail franchising regulator, after restoring services in April: John O'Brier, franchising director, said he had a lively discussion with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was told that Opraf was powerless to impose further penalties on the operator.

He said: "Jetwich is to implement the law.

as it is laid down. I have been asked to see how enforcement powers can be changed to stop what they [Labour] see as operators getting away with it"

Gavin Strang, Minister for Transport, said operators were on their last warning. ."The South West Trains episode supports our belief that the weapons currently available to the regulators are inadequate." Stagecoach, run by Brian Souter, said it

was delighted with the outcome, describing the two-month-long disruption as "teething problems". Its shares rose 1912p to 6181 ap. Brism Cox, managing director of South West Trains, said: "We are now fully braced to get back on track and stay on track. The situation was never as bad

as it was made out - the ship had a stormy launch but it stayed robust." Stagecoach was able to avoid the heavier penalties by restricting cancellations to off-peak services. While Opraf

levies £600 for every peak-time train that is cancelled, the penalty for off-peak cancellations can fall below £100. To take extra action under the Railway Act, Opraf must wait until a train operator has underperformed for eight

weeks. Then, it can threaten an unlimited fine that can be imposed only after a further month. It was in this final "grace period" that South West Trains restored its service, avoiding the extra penalty.

shipping group afloat. Pennington, page 26

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# BBCC

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# Fraud-busters who grounded Gokal's flight

By Jon Ashworth

ABBAS GOKAL, jailed for 14 years for his role in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) debacle, has occupied a lot of people for a long, long time. At one point, 80 policemen, lawyers and accountants were working on what was to become one of the most complicated and lengthy investigations in criminal history.

The severity of his sentence is a fillip to the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) team, led by Chris Dickson and Kevin McDonald, and that from

the City of London Police fraud squad, headed by Detective Superintendent Jerry Ohlson. Detective Sergeant Doug Reeman and Detective Constable Steve Joels, were commended for their exemplary work on the case.

The police garhered enough information to cover a football pitch, including 2,300 bags and 2,614 files, and had to reinforce the structural foundations of their storage facility. The BCCI case took up more than half a million man hours, and required visits to 19 countries on a tour that included Grand Cayman, Monaco, Abu Dhahi and the Isle of Man.

Gokal, seized in Frankfurt in July 1994, consistently protested his innocence. Sentencing him yesterday. Mr Justice Buxton said he had showed no remorse, lought the case to the end. and lied persistently and repeatedly in so doing". His actions had caused harm to many thousands of innocent people, and threatened the integrity of the international banking system. The police spared Gokal after finding him booked under a false name on a Pakistan Airlines flight from Karachi to New York, Sergeant Reeman was waiting with an arrest warrant when the plane landed at Frankfurt to refuel.

Gokal did not appear. Reeman boarded the plane, and discovered him sitting in first class with his wife, surrounded by air hostesses. He

was arrested, and extradited to the UK. A tip-off led the police to a safe deposit box in Old Broad Street. Inside, they found documents acknowledging that the Gulf Group, Gokal's company, owed \$1.2 billion to BCCI—evidence that was to hold the case together. Detective Superintendent Ohlson says: "Sometimes you get these wonderful champagne moments during an investigation. This was one of them."

# Pensions leaders warn Brown over abolition of ACT

By Marianne Curphey and Robert Miller

pensions industry believe that Labour plans to abolish Advance Corporation Tax credit to bring in an extra £5 billion of income for the Government.

Leaders of Britain's largest pension schemes, which control assets of £370 billion, have united to give a warning to Gordon Brown, the Chancelior, not to "strangle" occupational retirement funds.

Senior fund managers at the National Association of Pension Funds annual conference. which opened yesterday, said pension schemes and personal equity plans could be hit if Labour halved or abolished ACT. One leading industry

PRUDENTIAL Corpora-

tion has dismissed calls from

the environment lobby to

take an active role in strate-

gic decisions made by Royal

Dutch/Shell and RTZ-CRA.

it holds 3.8 per cent of Shell

Prudential confirmed yester-

day that it would not support

an independent resolution

next week calling for clarifi-

cation of Shell's environ-

mental and corporate re-

sponsibility policies.

SENIOR figures in Britain's figure told The Times: "We are concerned that it would be an easy target for a government looking for new ways of raising revenue. The message I am receiving is that abolition of the ACT is entirely possible. It could raise £5 billion for the Exchequer."

Fears that Mr Brown plans to curtail the tax concessions enjoyed by occupational pen-sion funds has sparked a furious campaign led by the NAPF, whose members look after pensions on behalf of ten million public and privatesector employees.

Speaking at the conference in Harrogate yesterday. Ann Robinson, director-general of

The resolution is being

lodged at Sheil's annual

meeting next Wednesday by

Pirc, the campaigning in-

vestment advisory service.

But Sir Martin Jacomb.

chairman of Prudential,

meeting: "We take environ-

mental concerns seriously

but it is unrealistic to sug-

gest that the world will use

less energy, and we will not

be using our position to put pressure on Shell."

Insurer dismisses call

by environment lobby

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

NAPF, said: "We have deep concerns about some of the Government's projected tax policies - in particular any reduction or abolition of the ACT credits. ACT is the 20 per cent tax

currently levied on all company dividends. Pension funds can claim this back on the grounds that the tax will eventually be collected on the money paid out as a monthly pension. Paul Myners, chairman of Gartmore, part of the NatWest Group, said: "ACT is a honeypot that the Chancellor will find it difficult not to dip his mitts into."

Outside the NAPF conterence hall, senior fund managers reinforced Dr Robinson's views. Colin Day, senior adviser to Henderson Investors. which manages £15 billion, said: "If ACT is reduced, or even abolished altogether, it will be a case of short-term gain for long-term pain. The Chancellor would see an increase in tax revenues almost immediately but in the years to come you would find lower pension fund returns and therefore a lower tax yield."

Peter Robertson, assistant general manager of Standard Life, said: "Frank Field has comprehensive look at pension provision and he is likely to look at changes in the context of other forms of tax relief, including mortgage interest tax relief. This is an issue which could involve substantiai changes . . . . "



Steve Willcox, pictured, chief executive of Avon Rubber saw interim profits rise to £15.6 million (£10.2 million). after a £11 million gain from the sale of the tyres division

#### **Bid-target** Capital out to buy casino

Ry Kerns Romans AND JASON NISSE

CAPITAL Corporation, the casino group that last month saw a £192 million bid from London Clubs International referred to the Monoplies and Mergers Commission, has been in talks to buy another London casino for a sum thought to exceed £20 million.

The deal to purchase, the Cromwell Mint casino, in Cromwell Road, Kensington, has been put on hold amid concern that Capital share-holders, led by Mercury Asset Management and Fidelity, would not back it.

However, garning sources said that Stephen Rutland, owner of Cromwell Mint, was keen on the deal when it was proposed to him by Garry Nesbitt, Capital's chairman... Cromwell is owned by Cromwell Sporting Enterprises, which had turnover of £7.5 million in its financial

year to April 1996, but made a profit of just £5,500. A purchase of Cromwell would make it harder for London Clubs to buy Capital, but would not necessarily per-suade the MMC to block the bid. The MMC is currently deciding whether a purchase by London Clubs would create a

nos in London and may ask London Clubs to make disposals if it lets the deal go through. A decision is due to made in July. London Clubs has withdrawn-its offer pending the MMC's ruling.

monopoly of high-rolling casi-

Many in the casmo industry believe that London Clubs may now attract a bid from Lad-broke, which has signalled that it may return to casmos.

### United News ready to take DTN stake

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA, owner of the Express newspapers and Anglia and Merdian ITV companies, said it will take a 30 per cent stake in the Digital Terrestrial Network consortium if the consortium wins the right to start digital TV broadcasts. United said the cost of the stake would be £120 million over a four-year

period, beginning in 1998.

DIN, led by international CableTel, an American cable and media company, will learn later this month whether it has won the digital terrestrial licence. Its only competitor is British Digital Broadcasting, owned by Cariton, Granada and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times. Analysts said that the Carlton-led group has stronger programming, while DTN's strength is the range of interactive services it intends to offer.

#### Tettamanti moves in

TITO TETTAMANTI is to become chairman of English & Overseas Properties, the property investment or rengism of Overseas Properties, the property investment company that yesterday amnounced plans to raise £13.4 million for acquisitions. The company is raising £12.7 million via a 1-for-1 rights issue of convertible preference shares at 16p a share and £650.000 through a placing of ordinary shares. Dr Tettamanti, formerly controlling shareholder of Carrows tha Society formerly controlling shareholder of Saurer, the Swiss-company, will hold 17.16 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

#### Countrywide optimism

SHARES in Hambro Countrywide rose 2/2 p to 138/2 p after the estate agent told shareholders at its annual meeting that the number of new sales agreed in the first four months has substantially exceeded the total achieved in the same period of 1996. Christopher Sporborg, chairman, also said the housing recovery had become sufficiently well established to withstand further modest interest rate rises. Mr Sporborg said the fee value of transactions was 26 per cent up.

#### Sony's record year

SONY unveiled record group profits for the last business year, aided by robust global sales and a weak yea. The Japanese electronics company predicted further growth this year. Sony's group net profit was 139.46 billion yen (\$1.12 billion) in the year to March, up 260 per cent. Parent profit was 85.73 billion yen (\$691 million), a threefold increase on the previous year. Sony said that sales rose in all its business areas, including electronics, entertainment, insurance and financing.

#### Offer pricing proposals

OFFER, the electricity industry regulator, said in a consultation paper that the scope of price restraint proposals should cover all domestic customers and extend to business customers with annual consumption below 12,000 kwh. Stephen Littlechild, director-general of electricity supply. said: "This will cover the smaller business customers most similar to domestic customers and most in need of protection during the coming transitional period on prices."

#### AT&T trio join partner

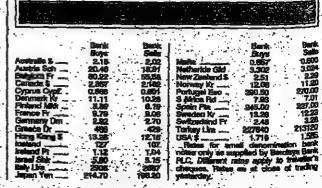
AT&T said that three key executives are leaving its wireless communications business as join a seart-up firm that will become a partner with the telecommunications company in entering local phone markets. Wayne Perry, Steve Hooper and Genry Salemme are leaving to rejoin Craig McCaw, who founded McCaw Cellular Communications in the 1970s and sold it to AT&T in 1994. The three will head Mr McCaw's OneComm LLC, a provider of competitive local phone services.

#### IBM buys in Advantis

iBM, the computer company, has acquired the outstanding. 30 per cent interest it did not already own in Advantis, the network data services firm, from Sears, the US department stores company, for \$450 million. Advantis forms part of IBM's Global Services subsidiary, which had revenues of \$22.9 billion in 1996. It is IBM's fastest growing business. with Lou Gerstner. IBM chief executive, telling analysts this week that he expected it to hire 15,000 people this year.

#### **Bre-X files complaint**

DAVID WALSH, president of Bre-X Minerals, has filed an official complaint, with the police alleging that his company was the victim of a massive fraud. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said Mr Walsh had not named any perpetratur. So far, at least eight class-action suits have been filed, alleging fraud, and naming Mr Walsh and Bre-X as defendants. The RCMP and the Alberta and Ontario Securities Commissions have begun inquiries.



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# THE SUNDAY TIMES IN WHOSE INTEREST?



DAVID SMITH REVEALS THE INSIDE STORY BEHIND GORDON BROWN'S MOVE TO FREE THE OLD LADY

PLUS: MILLENNIUM MELTDOWN

WHAT EVERY COMPANY DIRECTOR NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT BRITAIN'S MULTI-BILLION POUND 'TIME BOMB'

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

#### **News Corp** profits jump 23%

By Eric Requir

THE success of the re-released Star Wars trilogy and improved results from its British newspaper division helped The News Corporation, owner of The Times, to report a sharp increase in profits.

In the nine months to March 31, operating profit before abnormal items was \$867 million, up 23 per cent. The three Star Wars Special Edition films have generated US domestic box office sales of \$249 million since their release in January. Their success helped to lift operating income in the filmed entertainment division more than 100 per cent, to \$223 million.

Analysts said the division's results are not likely to be as strong in the next two quarters because Volcano, an expensive 20th Century Fox film, is not performing well at the box office. Advertising gains, increased circulation revenues and lower paper prices com-bined to lift operating profits in the newspaper division by 23 per cent, to \$336 million.

However, book publishing, dominated by HarperCoilins. made operating income of \$11 million (\$54 million).

#### Remand in \$311m fraud hearing

A MAN alleged to have held cheques from Bank of Ameriworth \$311 million was yesterday remanded in custody for a second week at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in central London.

The court was told that Gary Boothe, a Nigerian citizen, was not the true identity. of the man in the dock. Mr Boothe has been

charged with conspiracy to defraud and an attempt to obtain \$200,000 from Michael Armstrong, and of having in his possession a Bank of America cheque in the sum of \$17.5 million.

The court was told that a lengthy investigation, code-named Operation Delphin, was now being conducted in connection with the case by officers from the company fraud division of the Metropolitan Police.

Deputy Jeffrey Yearwood, the magistrate, told Mr Boothe, who did not apply for bail: "Owing to the seriousness and the gravity of the case you face I fear that if you were granted bail you might fail to attend. I am remanding you in custody for one week."

BURNS ANDERSON, one of the UK's biggest network of financial advisers, could be (Caroline Merrell writes).

The ombudsmen is to examine the cases of ten investors who put money with Steeds Financial Services, formerly a member of the Burns Anderson Independent Network Group. Steeds, of Lincolnshire, en-

Plan. a Spanish property

scheme. When Steeds went in

to receivership two years ago,

Services Act and therefore not liable for any compensation. The attempt by Burns An-

investors found that shares in the plan had been sold more than once. Faced with losses of £5 million, 200 investors have been pressing for com-pensation but Burns Anderson claims the investments were outside the Financial

derson in court to challenge whether the matter fell within the ombudsman's jurisdiction was dismissed. If found liable. Burns Anderson will try to recover the £5 million loss from its professional indemnity cover. However, insurers have previously been reluc-

### PIA sets sights on **Burns Anderson**

forced to pay compensation of up to £5 million to 200 property investors after a review by the Personal Investment Authority embudsmen

couraged investors to buy shares in Villa Investments

tant to pay out on these sorts

Sponsyn. Merrill Lynch in

Dated 9 May 1997

BELL - On Mi Joanne (née Androw, a daughter, Loc a sister for ( CANTEN KEAL May 2nd 1992 Bentley) and son, William Portland F Frances (née Charles, a dau Anne Truscot DE LANGQUE

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HAYMES ON ME Seth (née Richard, a Gobrielle Eliza HOWARD - Os ALIDGE - On May (take Coningsto Grughter, Reber Rate, a sister and Laura, Isa to Nataska (n and Simon,

useful excuse for some disappointing figures. The stock market's reaction to-BTR's plaintive moanings yes-terday indicated that some shareholders were not entirely convinced that sterling should be

held entirely to blame for the company's latest profit slide. For Ian Strachan there should have been some compensation for the pain of seeing £1.7 billion stripped from the valuation of his company in the fact that the culpable pound took a beating yesterday. But its slide should be but temporary since it was a headstrong response to a mis-guided fear that the Government was about to rush into the ERM. It will take more than rumour-

mongering to bring the pound down to the levels that would make signing up to European Monetary Union leasible and simultaneously, stop the whingeing from exporters. What the whingers now call for is a that would strengthen the currency. If the Government wants

# CRIM WARNINGS about the perils of living with a strong pound have now developed into the chorus might be a synchronised sigh of relief from businessmen who have found a

say, it should use taxes.

If the sight of the business

community telling a Labour Government to raise taxes seems slightly surreal, the variety of their thoughts on quite where the increased tax burden should fall

increased tax burden should fall is positively hizarre.

The Institute of Directors would like to see public spending out further but is prepared to accept the abolition of mortgage interest rate relief to bridge the fiscal gap. But this offends the British Chambers of Commerce, which is porried its construction. which is worried its construction members will suffer from a slowdown in the housing mar-ket. The BCC, has called for a penny rise in income tax to take the pressure off rates — utterly irrelevant since Labour has already ruled out any rises in income tax rates.

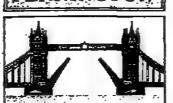
The Federation of Small Businesses is pushing for two-tier interest rates. The Confederation of British Industry is yet to spell out what measures it would like persistent calls for tax, rather than interest rate, rises.

Without a coherent tax target. business is in danger of getting all the rises it has called for, but not in the form it wants. Companies are as attractive a target for Labour as consumers. Only British Steel, which repeated its warnings about the threat of sterling yesterday, seems to have accepted that a mixture of personal and corporation tax in-creases is realistic. The CBI will not find itself popular with mem-bers, let alone the National Association of Pension Funds, if

its campaign leads to increases in corporation and pension taxes.

#### New initiative needed for PFI

☐ THE Private Finance Initiative was a wizard wheeze, dreamt up by the last Government as a means of bringing important pub-lic building projects to fruition without burdening the public PENNINGTON



iovs of PFL a wondrous way of providing all those hospitals that ocal MPs have promised to Labour voters without upsetting Chancellor Gordon Brown's pledges to stick to Conservative expenditure strictures.

But construction companies have been understandably wary of PFI. Big projects involve risk and builders just recovering from the hammering they took during the recession have been reluctant to walk into new dangers. The few PFI schemes which have moved beyond the realms of wishful thinking are those where the risks have been minivery attractive, such as the fast rail link to the Channel Tunnel. The National Health Service has come up with numerous potential PFJ schemes but almost and the private sectors. all have stalled. The contractors prepared to tender have found the

process hugely expensive, with specifications changing along the way and clients who often seem unaware of commercial reality. And even if practical hurdles could be overcome, there remains one over-riding difficulty: the builder who invests in a state of the art regional hospital is frighteningly dependent on one major client. Without substantial guarantees of future NHS policies and pocket depth, most com-

panies would regard it as fool-hardy to take on such a project. But these obstacles should not be insurmountable. The principle of PFI is a sensible one. If it is to be put to effective use, it requires a different mind-set on the part of those in the public sector who want the involvement of the commercial world. If uty managing director of GEC, can achieve that, he will have done a service to both the public

#### Regulation off the rails

☐ WOULD-BE commuters on South West Trains must have hoped that the company's dismal failure to provide a proper service would be punished on a scale commensurate with the misery they had to endure. Yesterday's news that rail regulator John O'Brien has instead whisked a wet lettuce leaf across their wrists will be a grave disappointment.

John Prescott, the burly new

transport supremo, will have taken some persuading that SWT should not be heavily fined for the delays this spring, but merely docked its subsidy by a certain amount for each cancelled train. This is equivalent to setting parking fines by reference to the cost of waiting a

He insists that the the Railway Act 1993 does not allow any other course of action. This is arguable, and his office may have relied on promises that the SWT service would improve rather earlier than it actually did. This is by now a sterile argument. The best we can hope will come out of the affair is a tightening of his powers, ideally to a "fine-as-yougo" approach

Mr O'Brien, who had a "lively discussion" with Mr Prescott yesterday, has been told to come up with ideas. Failure might see his £135,000-a-year contract, due to end in August 1999, being cancelled as abruptly as some of those trains.

#### Short-sighted lady

☐ THE record prison sentence for the BCCI fraudster does not mark the end of the dreadful saga. We may yet face the spectacle of the Bank of England being sued for its failure to protect citizens from the bogus bank. It is to be hoped that the Government's shake-up in Threadneedle Street will ensure that the Old Lady's determined blindness to BICC's short-comings is never repeated.

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# for digital launch

TELEWEST Communications. the second largest cable com-pany, said it will be ready to launch digital TV services, with as many as 150 channels, by the end of they year.

Stephen Davidison, chief executive, said the company may buy the services offered by British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), the group led by BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, and BT, to help to make its digital package more attractive. BIB services will allow viewers with digital set-too boxes to shop, do their banking, book holidays and play

computer galmes from home. bond" debt to finance its move cent built. into the digital market. The money would be used to east

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vert its networks to digital technology and buy set-ton boxes for cable TV customers. TeleWest downplayed sug-

gestions that it will have to form its own alliance or acquire other cable companies to improve its fortunes. TeleWest has been overshadowed by Cable and Wireless Communleations, created last month by the merger of Mercury and three large cable companies.

TeleWest reported a pre-tax loss of £69.5 million in the quarter to March 31 (£53.4 million loss). The company said the loss was expected and was because of continued TeleWest is considering rais spending on expanding its ing about \$300 million in "junk" network, which is now 68 per

# TeleWest ready Kwik Save paying £25m for restructuring advice

KWIK SAVE, the struggling discount supermarket chain. is set to make provisions for £18 million over the next two years to cover payments to Andersen Consulting, the management consultancy

working on its restructuring. Andersen Consulting has already been paid about £7. million for advice given in the last nine months.

Kwik Save's shares fell yesterday after it revealed that despite the first restructuring efforts, customer numbers have fallen while current comparable store sales are down 6 per cent. Graeme Bowler, chief executive said sales executive, said sales looked particularly poor

because trading at the same time last year was boosted by a vigorous price campaign. The shares closed down 17p

at 291p. Analysts said that they were confused by the compa ny's strategy and questioned the amount being spent on consultants. The place is being run by Andersen's. Why don't they just get a new management team?" one said. Mr Bowler insisted that the

board had the full support of its main shareholder. Dairy Farm, which has a 29.9 per Pre-tax profit in the six month to March 15 was £40.7

fall was due to the £4.1 million

restructuring provision taken in the first half. The provision for the full year is expected to about £18 million next year.

Like-for-like sales during the first half were down 1.6 per cent. Mr Bowler said that despite the continued fall in recent weeks, he hopes to have neutral or positive sales growth by the end of this

The first truits of the restructuring, which began last November, is a new-format store Northwich, Cheshire, which was opened last month. A further four "new generation" stores are set to open this million (£44.2 million). The year and a roll-out across the

1,000-store chain will then take up to five years.

The company, which has now carried out around half of the 107 store closures it announced last year, has just launched 152 own-brand prod-ucts and will bring in another 150 this year. It is aiming for 1,000 own-brand products.

Capital expenditure has been held down in the first half to £6.5 million and is set to come in at £35 million in the full year. Earnings per share were 16.99p (18.45p) and the interim dividend, payable on July 7, has been maintained at 5.95p per share.

### **Body Shop faces** French closures

By Sarah Cunningham

THE Body Shop has set aside

France, where it saw sales plunge by 14 per cent last year. Gordon Roddick, chairman. said he hoped to avoid closing the 32 shops, which account for just 1.4 per cent of group sales. The franchise agreement with the current holder, who is British, is being terminated. Body Shop is in talks

possible cost of pulling out of

with possible French partners. The £6.5 million exceptional charge meant that Body Shop's pre-tax profit for the year to March I fell from £32.7 million to £31.7 million. Retail sales grew 8 per cent to £622.5

Mr Roddick blamed the strikes and terrorist attacks in Paris last year for the decline

ment with the current franchisee has been ended amicably. he said, "He Ithe franchisee] did very well from 1991 to 1995. but France as an investment needs more resources than he could out into it."

Like-for-like sales in the first eight weeks are down 2 per cent, with Asia down 10 per cent. Mr Roddick said he was not worried about this because it reflected the busy opening programme, which has put total retail sales up 7 per cent worldwide and 18 per cent in

Earnings per share, including exceptional items, were 9.2p (9.8p) and the final dividend is 3.2p, payable on May 23, giving a total for the year of 4.7p, up from 3.4p.



Get an XJR into a tight corner and the last thing anyone should feel is uneasy.

Low profile sports suspension, a low centre of gravity that has become a laguar hallmark, high rigidity and perfect weight

distribution imbue the XJR with precise and predictable handling.

The road couldn't be any more tightly held thanks to our cutting-edge brake and throttle traction control which senses and corrects loss of grip. A four-wheel sensing anti-lock braking system helps of course.

As do the vacuum-boosted all-round

The Jaguar XJR can certainly put a mind

at rest. But thankfully, not a heart.

The first supercharged luxury car in the UK is silk at speed, reaching 60 mph in 5.9 seconds." (We wouldn't want you to think that a safe Jaguar is a toothless one.)



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MICHAEL CLARK

# New York's bulls p London to closing h

market closed at their highest in response to another storming performance by the bulls on Wall Street.

During another helter-skelter performance the Dow Jones industrial average soared 100 points in early trading, wiping out much of Wednesday's 143-point fall. This enabled the FT-SE 100 index to erase a 20-point deficit before closing 42.9 up at a record high of 4.580.4. In the week since the Labour Party swept to power, the index has leapt 135 points.

The performance was underpinned by further solid gains in government securities, reflecting the overnight setback for the pound amid claims Britain would re-join the exchange-rate mechanism at the low rate of DM2.50.

By the close, a total of 958 million shares had changed hands but there was evidence to suggest that demand had once again far outweighed available stock. The financial sector and utilities enjoyed the

best of the mark-up.
In banks Alliance & Leicester stood out with a rise of 41p at 6262p. The shares stand a full 100p above the level they were floated at last month. There were also gains for Abbey National, 36p to 8845 p, HSBC, 91p to £17.95, LLoyds TSB, 2412 p to 60211 p, NatWest, 212 p to 785p. Royal Bank of Scotland, 172p to 60212p, and Standard Chartered, 33'ap to 980'ap.

Elsewhere among financials Commercial Union put on 18p at 7312p, and General Accident 25p at 953½ p.
The utilities saw National

Grid expand 9p at 2334 p. United Utilities 9p at 6762p. and Wessex Water 12hp at 390p. Railtrack also overcame recent nervousness about the new Labour administration to The profit warning from

hapless BTR slashed El.b billion from its £10.75 billion stock market price tag as the price tumbled 36 p to 231p. It was also the signal for one disgruntled fund manager to unload a line of 79.31 million shares, or almost 2 per cent of the issued share capital, at a sizeable discount to the ruling market price. SBC Warburg. the broker, paid 2152p (£170.9 million) for the stake as a bought deal. Most of the shares were then quickly sold on in two seperate lines of 48.02 million and 23 million at

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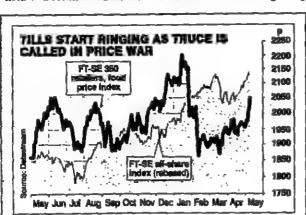
Phil Smith, of Kwik Save, saw the shares fall 17p to 291p

219p. The sale of the entire stake at 219p would have netted Warburg a handsome profit of £2.77 million. By the close a total of 225.7 million shares had changed hands. The 1997 warrants also finished 124 p down at 9p.

At the same time as it began placing the shares. Warburg moved its recommendation for the shares from a "buy" to a "hold". Dresdner Kleinwort

Benson has cut its profit forecast from El.32 billion to El.2 billion and rates the shares a "hold", while Credit Lyonnais Laing was urging clients to use the weakness to buy the shares as it cut its forecast from £1.3 billion to E1.25 billion.

ished 5p better at 5012p reflecting bumper profit news from its associate Hong Kong



J SAINSBURY extended the broker, says Sainsoptimistic about the sector. Tony MacNeary, at Nat-West Securities, says the increase in like-for-like sales reported by Sainsbury, Tesco, up 312p at 378p, and Asda, 12p firmer

at 1184 p. is positive. The mirror image confirms the big boys are back on top. A bit of the comfort factor has crept back in", he says. The improvement in sales could encourage the big players to take a less aggressive view on margins.

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its rally with a rise of 9 p at bury's less aggressive fit the rest of the sector. Safeway rose 10p to 343p, after hitting a high of 430p this year, with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson urgins clients to switch out of Sainsbury. Figures due out next week should show profits up from £401 milion to £427 million.

However, the 7 per cent drop in like-for-like sales at Kwik Save in the first seven weeks of the year left the shares 17p down at 29ip. It also burt leeland which was 5½p lower at 85½p.

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with figures from Body Shop, including a £6.5 million hit on its French operation. Shares finished 2p lighter at 1884 p. But Dixons put on 12½ p at 536½ p with the help of a profit upgrade and positive com-

ments from SBC Warburg. The rest of the stores fared better, encouraged by the latest CBI retail survey. Kingfisher rose 14p to 719p. Argos 4p to 649p, DFS Furniture 4p to 572p, JJB Sports 512p to 486 եր, Next 4 եր to 688 եր, Style 72p to 12Sp, and WH Smith 42p to 480p.

Some positive comments on current trading lifted Cadbury Schweppes 7p to 529p. Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the group would shrug off the ill-effects of a strong pound.

Pan Andean Resources touched 2712p before ending the session 14p down at 342p. partner BHP, the Australian mining giant. Their Chapare venture in Bolivia is to be

GILT-EDGED: A sharp fall in the pound overnight in New York paved the way for another buoyant performance among bonds. A bullish CBI retail survey also bolstered sentiment enabling the marnote. In the futures pit the June series of the long gilt ended £1932 higher at £113%, a full £1 above its low. A total of 108,000 contracts were

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 posted a rise of £1922 at £109322, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was E's better at £103716. NEW YORK: Wall Street extended gains in the afternoon as Dow Jones industrial average continued to retrace yesterday's losses. At midday,

it was 73.45 points up at

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

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# Saving Kwik Save

KWIK SAVE is paying an awful lot for advice

from Andersen Consulting, and if does not look like good value for money.

The first "new generation" Kwik Save, which opened in Cheshire last month and which is the product of Andersen's greatest minds, sounds a lot like 🚋 a normal supermarket. \*

A year ago, "old generation" Kwik Save-was selling 3p tins of baked beans and 8p tins of tomatoes straight out of cardboard boxes. only to discover - surprise, surprise - that it was losing a fortune in the process.

The "new generation" Kwik Save gives us wider aisles, own-labels, more fresh produce and decent lighting. The resulting shop sounds a lot like any small branch of Tesco or Sainsbury's, but without either of those magic. names above the door to emice customers in.

Kwik Save is not wrong to try new formats, because its old heavy-discounting formula had had its day. However, Andersen's plan looks both expensive and uninspired, while the slow pace at which the new-look stores are being introduced hardly instils confidence.

Kwik Save is in a very tight corner, Although the current 6 per cent fall in like-forlike sales can be explained by tough comparatives with last year, the drop in customer numbers cannot be explained away

and is only likely to get worse.

If would be nice to think that snother retailer, perhaps Spar or Aldi, might be waiting to swoop on Kwik Save. However, although its shares are down to 29lp. from more than 700p two years ago, it is probably still too expensive. Even at a 40 per cent discount to the market, Kwik Save is one to avoid.

#### Lonrho

THERE'S a bit in Ibsen's Peer Gynt where the boyish dreamer of the title sits down with an onion. He peels it. As each layer comes off, he says farewell to one of the surreal fantasies that cloaked his ultimately rather empty life. There's a touch of the

onion peeler about Lourho. The conglomerate is commit ted to tearing off its own an anthentic core: mining.

Yesterday's sale of Lourho Sugar Corp for £227 million saw another bit go. It was a good price, with most of the proceeds reducing debts to provide vital breathing space as the Princess Hotels safe drags on.
The intention is to sepa

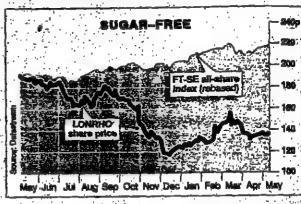
rate mining and African trading interests by the end of the year. A host of firms are possible sale or floats,

including Dutton Forshaw, its motor dealer, FE Wright, there is the immediate probits Lloyd's insurance broker,

and Cramington Textiles. The number of seemingly extraneous businesses might ersuade investors that the 137p share price doesn't re-flect the latent value. But getting a fair price for all the bits will be very difficult just look at the hotel saga. And

lem of Anglo-American having to get rid of its 28 per

Peer Gynt's big worry comes when he peels back the last onion layer and finds nothing at the core. London will definitely have something left, but the shareholder bene fit may well not be as attractive as hoped. Steer clear.



#### TeleWest :

TELEWEST Communications needs a break. For much of last year the cable company had a lame-duck acting chief executive because of chronic wavering among its American shareholders. It lost its title as the largest player in the industry with the flotation of Cable and Wireless Communications, formed from the merger of Mercury and three cable

in the intervening months, the shares have been on the wane. They are now trading at about 83p, which is less than half their 182p flotation.

The shares are starting to look cheap, but now is not the time to buy. If TeleWest completes a planned \$300 million junk bond financing. they could slide again. Junk bond debt is expensive; it can carry interest charges as high as 13 per cent."

The junk bonds will come as a mixed blessing. They

will add another layer of debt. to the already highly leveraged company, but the money will be used for a good cause. TeleWest will apend it to convert its networks to digital technology and buy digital set-top boxes for its cable TV customers.

In the long run, digital technology is the way to go because it will provide viewers with unprecedented choice. But success will depend entirely on the quality of programming and intersetive services that are made available. The time to buy the shares is when the digital content package starts to capture the viewers imagination. This may may not happen for another year or-

#### Toad

TOAD is nothing if not imaginative. From its dashboard spy cameras to antiburglar smoke screens, a tie in with the creator of Crinkly Bottom is nothing less than what the company has taugh the market to expect. Still, its last surprise - the resignation of Charles Parket at chief executive after 29 days in the job - lingers in the minds of City investors.

All eyes are on Dr Chris Evans. He has made millions for shareholders in his blotech companies, and is desperately trying to scrub out a stain on an otherwise suc-

cessful City career. Toad's trouble is that it has good products that provide solutions for problems to

day's drivers don't know they have. It is still chasing a gold en era when people will ackially want e-mail in their cars instead, it is selling mimdate products like windshield renforcement plastics in five Neel Edmonds has not

been paid a penny in real cash so if the scheme works if can only be a bonus. Berumil. there is some evidence of consumer demand the spares, up 12p to 41p yesterday, should be avoided.

May 5 May

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Jenny and Jenny and daughter, Car a sister to Portless His and Christo Naturals and Henry. Joanne (née Andrew, s daughter, Leg a sister for C

May 2nd 1997 bentley) and son, William Portland 1 Frances (née Charles, a day OF LABORIES . to Rosan Tollemache) daughter, Reb DODGE - On Marianno (née EDE1 - On Ma Matilda Ros Kong, to Jonza and Jack, a Cassase, a Madeistra

DULWALLE - D Beth (née Richard, a Caballe Miss Cale Contacts to Natasha (ne and Simon, a Charlotte.

Alighe ships Tuesday May and Danny, a Daniel

n the early hours of last Friday morning the ashen faces of former Conservative Ministers Iani Larig Michael Forsyth and Malcolm Rifkind contrasted with the oure joy shown by Scottish nationalists shouting: Our country will be free." But before the last cocktail of whisky and I'm Bru was drained, Labour was at work drafting the devolution Bill that will, it hopes, give Scots enough power to pacify them without putting the fear of God into the

business community.
The details will come out directly after the Queen's Speech next week - ahead of a Scottish referendum expected in Sep-tember. The routing of the Scottish Conservatives — standing on a preserve the union ticket - shows a groundswell of support for a separate parliament for the first time since 1707. The business community cannot ignore it. Some staunch supporters of the union — such as Lord Weir of the Glasgow engineer concept as a potential source of "aggro" between London and Edinburgh. "The idea of a glorified city council sitting in

# Terror of the 'Tartan tax' dampens the joy of devolution for Scottish business

Edinburgh is ghastly," was his reaction. At the same time others, such as Liam Kane, chief executive of Mirror Group's Scottish operations, have pinned their

colours proudly to the mast of devolution. However, despite warnings by Ian Lang during the election that devolution would scare off investment in Scotland, most Scottish business leaders are fairly sanguine. Their big concern, though, is the "Tartan tax". They are wary of how much tax-raising power the Scottish parliament might have.

Tony Blair's supposed gaffe — when he compared a Scottish parliament's taxraising powers to an "English parish council. — have not settled the nerves. Scottish & Newcastle, the leisure and brewing group whose headquarters

stand in the shadow of the proposed Scottish parliament building, is one of the few willing to articulate the concerns that many business leaders voice in private. but are loath to utter publicly for fear of alienating the Government and their workforce. Brian Stewart, S&N chief executive, says that if Scotland has a higher personal tax rate than the UK this could hit future investment north of the border. He is concerned about tax not only cutting the amount of disposal income available to spend in Scotland but also putting up employment costs - and S&N employs 4,000 in Scotland. "Managers whom we would hope to be attracting to come and work for us or relocate from England to Scotland might be put off by higher taxes. If in general the tax-raising

powers increase the cost base, that would have a negative effect on investment." David Mackay, chief executive of John Menzies, also thinks that increased taxes

might cause problems. "I think there are worries about devolution. Especially if it is accompanied by tax which would disadvantage many employers in Scotland." ne tax Menzies is particularly

concerned about is business rates. Labour has said it might give the power to set business rate levels back to local councils, raising the prospect of a return to the situation in the mid-1980s when it was more expensive to occupy shops in Princes Street. Edinburgh, than in Oxford Street, London. A great deal has to do with the level of

MARKS PER POUND

STERLING

TRADE-WEIGHTED

tax increase. "A penny on income tax is neither here nor there," said one Scottish financier. Three pence might be different or an extra 10p on top rates."

The so-called Charlotte Square mafia the community of life assurers headquartered in Edinburgh - lobbied aggressively in the run-up to the election to minimise the powers of a Scottish assembly, although the Labour Party claimed the support of both Scottish Widows and Standard Life for its devolution proposals. Tom King, corporate affairs director at Standard Life, admits the group has had a programme of wining and dining Scottish Labour MPs in an attempt to make them understand what the life companies would be prepared to live with. He points

any fall in the pound as a

pretext to raise interest rates.

And if that is what markets

starts to suspect, then the

pound is not likely to move

down at all - at least until it

wreaks such havoc in British

industry and the balance of

payments that the speculative

Nobody outside the Bank

knows the answer to this question. But judging by the record of other central banks,

anyone who expects Mr

George to inaugurate the new

ета of independence by pursu-

ing a policy of deliberate

depreciation could be in for a

disappointment. At the very

least, the Bank is likely to wait

for tangible signs of slowing

activity and weakening con-

sumer demand before it pulls

the rug from under sterling.

By that time, sterling may be

higher than it is today, causing

irreversible industrial damage

and preparing the ground

nd if the Bank does

for a traditional sterling crisis once the bubble is burst.

nancial masque, why should

anyone else? Why should Jap-

anese investors stop buying

sterling bonds after a tight

Budget makes them even

more attractive? Why should

the industrial lobbies support

high taxes when the Chancel-

lor can no longer guarantee

any payoff in terms of a more

competitive pound? And why,

for that matter, should voters

suffer in silence as Tony Blair

tears up his promises on tax

for no obvious economic bene-

fit? At least the last question

has a clear answer: Mr Blair's

majority is 179.

bubble bursts.

out that Alastair Darling, the Chief Secretary at the Treasury, is MP for the constituency that includes Charlotte Square, and with it about 90 per cent of the Scottish financial services industry.

The Scottish finanical community appears to be reassured that the Scottish parliament will not have power to raise corporate tax rates or regulate Scottish business differently from Westminster. Nothing should be done that affects the Scottish financial community's ability to compete in England," said Mr King.

The hanking community is similarly relaxed. "Our regulator will still be the Bank of England," said Peter Woodifield, of the Royal Bank of Scotland, "Well, if it remains the Bank of England. At least it will be the same regulator as the Londonbased banks."

Labour appears to have won over the financial community. The battle will be to win over the rest of the business community, some of whom think they are the effective opposition in Scotland now that Scottish Tories have been routed.

JASON NISSE

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ECONOMIC VIEW



**ANATOLE KALETSKY** 

# Second thoughts on independent Bank

WHERE NEXT ON THE STERLING ROLLERCOASTER?

Brown's move may have the opposite effect to

the one he intended

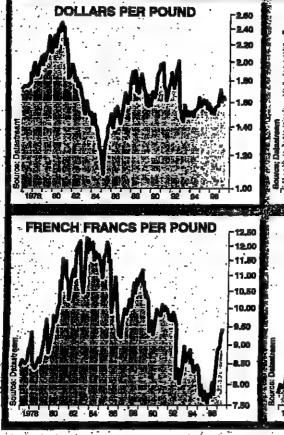
ometimes an event comes - so : suddenly and is so far-reaching in its implications that even experienced journalists, whose job it is to think fast cinctly, do not have the time or the space to get anywhere near the truth. I have to admit to such a professional lapse last Tuesday, when Gordon Brown announced his decision to make the Bank of England independent. To readers who were shocked by my attack on Mr Brown's decision, I wish to apologise: my harsh words were not nearly harsh enough.:

By concentrating on the theoretical objections to the principle of central bank independence, I glossed over the more important practical issues which could unleash the financial nemesis discussed in this column last week. Specifically, I misunderstood the effect this decision could have on the

Specifically, central bank independence is more likely to drive the currency up than down. By doing this, it could disrupt completely economic plans of the new Government - not least by breaking up the strange consensus Which has formed in the business community in favour of higher tax. And once the economy has suffered beyond repair from the damage done by an overvalued pound and an overly tight monetary policy, the ster-ling bubble will, of course. burst proving yet again the iron law of left-wing politics in Britain: all Labour governments are brought down by financial crises the seeds of which they sow during their

4 L. W. T. T.

first days of power. Let us start from the premise discussed on this page last week: that Britain's biggest economic problem today is the malignant hardness of the pound. The high exchange rate turers and exporters that es-



caped from the two dreadful

currency squeezes of 1979-81 and 1990-92. The key question

now is whether Bank indepen-

dence will make it easier or

harder to manage the transi-

tion to a competitive exchange

rate in a non-inflationary and

non-disruptive way. The con-

ventional wisdom screams:

"Of course it will — the independent Bank will boost

international confidence in

Britain and guarantee low

What nobody stops to ask is

whether a boost to internation-

al confidence is what Britain

hot money from Japanese

bond investors and US curren-

cy speculators seeking high yields. There are times when

financial credibility can do

more harm than good. A

country whose currency is

being driven up in a specula-

rather less confidence, not

more. If that sounds ridicu-

lous, remember what happen-

ed to Japan in 1995, Germany

boom-bust cycle needs

mid-1980s. Or closer to home, reflect on the wreckage left behind by the orgy of over-enthusaism for British assets during the 1979-81 Thatcher recession and again in the 1987-88 Lawson boom.

The Labour Government, to its credit, understands the potential problem. It wants the pound to weaken and is even prepared to say so more or less openly, as evidenced by the brilliantly timed leak which knocked sterling down 3 per cent in less than an hour on Wednesday night. Whatever may be said about Mr Brown and his lieutenants they are now needs. It certainly seems a strange prescription for a country whose gravest econot stupid. The question remains whether they can get the markets to do what they want and push sterling back to a more competitive level by clever manipulation alone. Experience suggests they will fail. Many other clever governments have tried to influence exchange rates by words alone. Few have succeeded until they have backed their words with significant

changes in economic policy.

The chances are, therefore, that Mr Brown will not re-verse the upward trend in the

pound simply by saying that he wants the pound to fall. There will have to be a significant policy change. Again, Mr Brown's people have foreseen the problem or think they have. They view central bank independence as only one step in a two-stage strategy for rebalancing the economy. The second step will be a tough Budget which will raise taxes, reduce the public sector borrowing requirement. and inflation and thereby relieve the upward pressure on interest rates.

ower interest rates, in turn, will push the pound downwards, make manufacturing Industry more competitive and restore the jobs lost through higher taxes. It sounds like a textbook prescription for a carefully-controlled currency depreciation Indeed it is exactly the kind of policy urged on the new Government in this column a week ago. Why, then, do I suddenly suspect it will not work?

This is where we come back to Tuesday's fateful decision

on the Bank of England. The most critical element of this whole policy package is the willingness to ease interest rates aggressively enough to pull the pound down. Without the critical ingredient of looser monetary policy the whole prescription will not work. In fact, it will probably achieve

opposite of the result intended. If investors are confident that monetary policy will be eased promptly in response to higher taxes, they can probably be relied on to sell sterling. But if interest rates remain high or rise further after a tight Budget, the short-term reaction of international investors could be to buy more pounds. Britain already has the highest interest rates among G7 countries. That has made UK government bonds one of the world's best investments in the past 12 months. Now Mr Brown has offered investors the anti-inflationary reassurance of an independent central bank. Next month he will follow that with a Budget that puts Britain on course to repay the national debt. Why should that suddenly persuade them to dump the highyielding gilts and sterling de-posits that have served them so well in the past year? The only possible reason would be the certain knowledge that interest rates will be deliberately managed to depreciate

Until Tuesday, there would have been ample reason for this view, since the Chancellor, who is known to favour a lower exchange rate, was directly in control of interest rates. Now that the Bank is in charge, the whole calculation is thrown into doubt. It is true that Eddie George said on Tuesday that sterling is "uncomfortably strong". The reason he gave, however, had nothing to do with the travails of manufacturing industry or the need to sustain economic growth after a tight Budget. We have talked reneatedly about the dilemmas (the strong pound) poses for mone-

Could it be that Mr George's main reason for unhappiness about the present exchange rate is simply that the strong pound has prevented him from raising interest rates even higher? If this is true,

#### BUSINESS **LETTERS**

#### Regan detected Co-op weakness

From Mr Henry Pitman

Sir. Your newspaper has been swift to join the City institutions in distancing yourself from Andrew Regan, despite your previ-ous enthusiasm for his David versus Goliath audacity.

While some of his actions cannot be sanctioned, it should not be ignored that he spotted an opportunity that other, better-financed entrepreneurs had not and seemed to have found a way of unlocking it.

More importantly, Regan highlighted a badly run, unfocused, faded conglomerate run by sanctimonious men whose purported ideals are certainly not in the best interests of their staff and

Yours faithfully, HENRY PITMAN, 50/60 Berners Street,

#### Peril of choosing to remain in the dark

From Mr J. Humphrey

Sir, Miss Delia Twamley (Business Letters, April 29) remarks with surprise on how easy it is to fill in the new tax return, adding "and I have not read the accompanying

May one express concern lest, waking one night with something which needs atten-tion, this lady were to go to her shelves without switching on the light and, in the dark, to help herself to the bottles there regardless of the perils of not

Yours faithfully. MR J. E. HUMPHREY, 9 Offington Gardens, Worthing,

# Sans of time

AS IF to prove that the world has from the Early Learning Centre or, now gone quite mad and that the role of the satirist is redundant, I can exclusively reveal to you the BBC's new logo. A few months ago, when news broke of the decision to update the old one just six years after the last revamp, the Beeb was forced to deny reports that the exercise would cost £5 million. Senior managers have just received a briefing explaining, inter alia, that "the existing logo doesn't work on screen" and that "doing nothing was not an option".

They will also, naturally, have to sit through a 12-minute video explaining how all this is to be sold to their subordinates. As you see, the Corporation has bought some lettering



perhaps, merely hit the old logo with a hammer until it stood upright. The design uses a typeface designed by the artist Eric Gill, whose work already graces Broadcasting House, so the BBC has, so to speak, kept it all within the family. I am sure Gill would have approved. ● OF WHOM do I speak? "He has

a long history of innovation in consumer applications for tried and tested technology." Sir Clive Sinclair? Alan Sugar, perhaps? The quote comes from Dr Chris Evans. himself no slouch at the application of technology. His company Toad did a deal yesterday with the Unique Group, and he was referring to its proprietor - Noel Edmunds. the innovatory genius who brought you Crinkley Bottom, the Gunge Bath and Mr Blobby.

#### K factor

AS WE continue to find honest work for those unsettled by last week's landslide, a name emerges as a front-runner to head a new all-embracing City watchdog. Step forward Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank of England.



The reasoning goes thus: if Gavyn Davies (or virtually anyone else other than H. Davies) is appointed as the second deputy governor in charge of economic and monetary affairs, the prospect of being left merely policing UK banks is none too appealing. And then there is the potential for embarrassing confusion over names. Far better a highprofile and challenging task like the much-needed reform of City regulation? Just a thought, Howard. There must be a K in it for you.

 ANOTHER day, another profits warning from another blue chip company. BTR shares lost 13 per cent of their value yesterday, following Dalgety on Wednesday down

the water slide. Biggest holder of Dalgety, as we pointed out, was our favourite long-term investor, PDFM. Biggest investor in BTR? Er,

#### Hot air

DELEGATES in Harrogate for the two-day National Association of Pension Funds conference yesterday worked themselves into such a fury over what Gordon Brown may or may not do to them that the fire alarms went off and the hotel had to be evacuated.

#### Party line

THE news that Britain was going to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism was so ludicrous - Labour within a week of the election to repeat the mistake that lost it for the Tories? that I immediately wondered if someone in a bit of a hole on the currency markets and friends working on the newswires might be trying to get out of it.

The report was sourced by Reuters to something called Bridge News, which turns out to be the old Knight Ridder news agency. Chris Davison, the writer, stands by the story, saying he did talk to a "Labour economic source" on Wednesday night, who actually said, as his report made clear, that entry at DM2.50 might be "attractive". As

the pound currently stands at DM 2.77 even after the falls the report provoked, all this fuss seems a touch

The Treasury describes Bridge News as "competent", with "good contacts" at Westminster. A spokesman denied the inevitable assumption that the Labour source was actually Ed Balls, adviser to Gordon Brown. "He would probably be one of the people in the category who would themselves ask who Bridge News was. He would not normally speak to a financial news agency. So who did? And why?

MARTIN WALLER



"What's the hurry?" said Thomas. "It doesn't matter if we're late"

### TRUST ME

**goodwill** n. 1 document in which you are left something of value 2 what you should extend to others when this occurs 3 the good reputation of a business and its contacts with its customers.

partnership n. 1 seagoing accommodation for lawyers, accountants etc. 2 unregistered business where two or more people share the risks and profits equally.

joint venture n. 1 trip inspired by illegal substance (orig. sixties) 2 annual orthopaedic holiday 3 business planned by two or more persons, companies etc.

**bond** n. 1 attach fingers together with superglue 2 agent with liking for dry martinis (shaken, not stirred) 3 contract document promising to

flotation n. 1 launching of a commercial enterprise on the Stock Exchange 2 life belt or similar device required if enterprise sinks.

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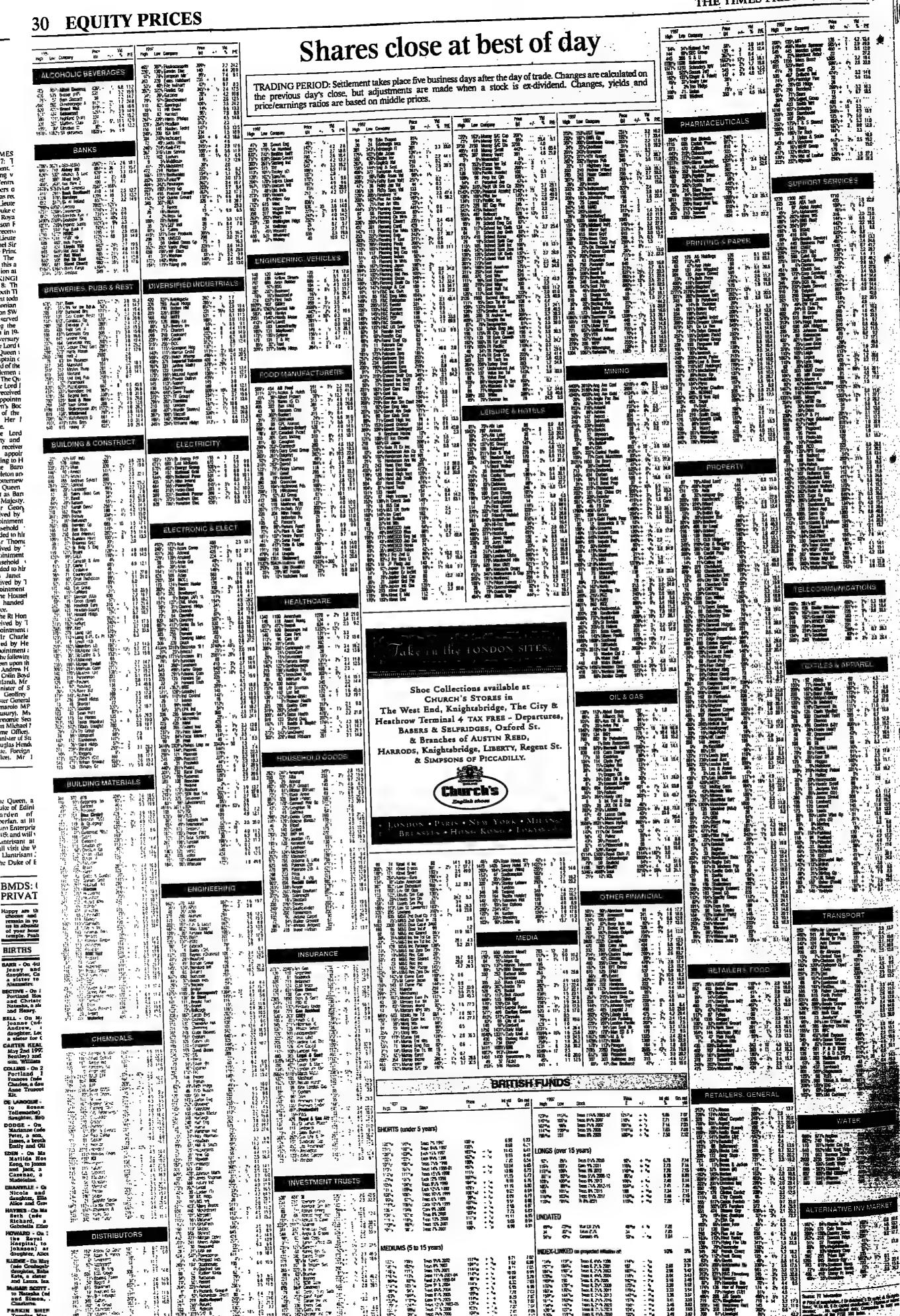
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THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 9 1997



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# McAlpine looks at sales to offset Raine bid cost

ALFRED McALPINE has identified disposals that could raise up to E25 million against the £44.3 million cost of its agreed takeover bid for Raine, the fellow housebuilder and

construction company.
Oliver Whitehead, chief executive of McAlpine, said the disposals were likely to cover housing and investments in Califor-nia, residential land in Majorca and some peripheral UK property interests. These were valued at £30 million in Raine's last

The takeover of Raine, signalled in mid-April, propels McAlpine into the top ten of the UK's biggest housebuilders with a combined output of 3,500 housing completions a year. Mr Whitehead said: "It's a fair price and I would expect the acquisition to produce some earnings

enhancement in its first full year of ownership. The integration of Raine's Hassell Homes subsidiary with McAlpine's residential housing division will give us a bigger slice of the UK

previously been represented." These comprise Cumbria, Northumbria and Yorkshire. In the three overlapping areas of the Midlands, the North-West and South West of England, McAlpine plans to close three regional offices. which will result in a "significant" reduction in

central overheads and operating costs. Sir Terence Harrison, the chairman, said: We are convinced the combination of the two groups offers an exceptional opportunity to create a major player in the housebuilding and construction sectors for the benefit of all the shareholders in the enlarged group."

McAlpine's all-share offer of 23.57p a share

represents a premium of 34.7 per cent over Raine's share price immediately before the announcement that the pair were in bid talks on April 18. Yesterday Raine shares rose 2p to 20p. McAlpine fell 13p to 154p. McAlpine is also call-ing on shareholders for \$29.7 million through a two-for-seven convertible rights issue at an equivalent price of 142p a share. It will be used to reduce borrowing of the enlarged group.

### Silentnight boosted by consumer recovery

BY ADAM JONES

helped to push annual pre-tax profits up to £14.3 million £11.1 million) at Silentnight. the bed and cabinet maker.

Turnover for the 12 months to February 1 rose 12 per cent to £212 million as customers drifted back to high street showrooms and cabinet raw

Sales at the UK beds division rose 12 per cent to £113,5 million and operating profit rose 49 per cent to £3.3 million.

The cabinets division recorded sales of £59 million (£54 million). Its margins were hit in 1995 by rises in the cost of

MDF, its main raw material. In America, where Silentnight trades under the Serta brand, turnover increased 37 per cent to £24.6 million. The company has factories in Boston and Pittsburgh and believes there are efficiencies still to be made, particularly in Pittsburgh. It is also looking at possible US acquisitions, although nothing is imminent.

Germany, where consumers have been squeezed by the fiscal restraints required for economic and monetary union in Europe, proved to be the toughest market and profits only held steady.

Bill Simpson, chief executive, said the group's early targets for 1997 were being achieved, with improvements particularly expected for the cabinets arm. Overall growth, however, is expected to be slower than in 1996.

A final dividend of 7p (5.25p) is due on July 7, making a total



# Hongkong Telecom | Football suing over

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN HONG KONG

Hong Kong Telecommunications achieved a 12.5 per cent rise in net profits to HK\$11.18 billion (£890 million) in the year to March 31, but analysts questioned its long-term prospects in an increasingly com-

that it will vote through the purchase at an extraordinary general meeting. All Lonrho Sugar share-holders will be entitled to receive a final dividend of R0.25 per share as part of the deal, in respect of annual holds 58.5 per cent of it. results that are due to be

first two days of making the an-

UK BANKS AND BUILDING SOCIETIES

# illicit TV broadcasts

By JASON NISSE

FOOTBALL is taking High Court action to stop pubs and clubs, largely in the North of England, illegally showing live Premiership matches.

utors of equipment that can pick up signals from TV2, which has the contract to show FA Carling Premiership games live in Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

Many pubs have bought the satellite equipment and have

tion, parent company of The Times. BSkyB charges pubs by the size of audience they attract, generating around £30 million of income a year.

The Premiership is particularly unhappy about the showing of Saturday games, which are not shown live on British TV. Under the deal with TV2 live Saturday games are shown during the winter foot-ball break in Scandinavian.

Ian Fletcher, chairman of D&C Satellite and Television in Cheshire, one of the groups being sued, said: "It is no offence to sell equipment that can pick up these signals."

#### **BUSINESS ROUNDUP**

#### Oxford seeks £30m for acquisitions

OXFORD MOLECULAR is raising £30.4 million through a rights issue to fund the acquisitions of two computer software businesses in America and to provide working capital. Oxford, which supplies drug design software and contract research services, also unveiled a collaborative agreement with Astra, the Swedish pharmaceutcals company, to develop desktop software for research scientists. Oxford is paying an initial \$22.5 million cash for Genetics Computer Group and the software arm of MLR Automation. A further profitrelated sum of up to \$1.5 million may become due.

The pact with Astra will last a year and will aim to develop an integrated suite of software tools that can be used to define, store, retrieve and analyse data. Oxford reported 1996 pre-tax losses of £1.85 million (£3.7 million) on sales of £9.79 million (56.2 million). Losses were 3.3p a share (7.2p loss). Again there is no dividend. The underwritten rights issue is on a one-forseven basis at 360p a share. Existing shares fell lp to 4072 p.

#### **Mirror Group positive**

MIRROR GROUP, the newspaper group that publishes The Mirror and Sunday Mirror, said that it had made a "positive" start to 1997. Sir Robert Clark, chairman, speaking at the company's annual meeting, said he was confident that the rest of the year would turn out to be "satisfactory". On current trading. Sir Robert said that advertising revenue is picking up again after a quiet period before the general election, and the outlook for the remainder of the year was "encouraging". The shares rose 312p to 2132p.

#### **Employment worries**

MANY small companies are still finding employment regulations a major problem, according to a legal helpline. About 43 per cent of the 17,000 queries handled by the Federation of Small Businesses legal assistance helpline in the first quarter were over employment matters. Bill Knox, the FSB's employment affairs chairman, said the results showed employers were finding it tough in the aftermath of a recession. Queries about the working time directive, health and safety regulations and statutory sick pay also featured heavily.

#### Cadbury's solid start

CADBURY SCHWEPPES, the confectionery and soft drinks group, has made a solid start to 1997, Dominic Cadbury. chairman, said at the annual meeting yesterday. But he also gave warning that the strong pound would have "an adverse impact" on this year's results. The group completed the sale of its 51 per cent stake in Coca-Cola-Schweppes Bottlers to Coca-Cola in February for £623 million. It also bought Bim Bim, Egypt's leading confectionery company for an undisclosed sum. The shares rose 7p to 529p.

#### **Promotion for Tague**

STOREHOUSE, the retail group, has appointed Stephen Tague, stores operations director as Bhs, as managing director of the chain. Mr Tague, 42, joined Bhs in January 1994. He previously worked for Debenhams and Allders. He will be responsible for Bhs UK operations, one of the jobs previously done by Keith Edelman, the chief executive of Storehouse who remains executive chairman of Bhs. Mr Edelman said: "Stephen will play a key operational role, enabling me to concentrate on longer term strategic issues."

#### **US deal for VAH**

VISUAL ACTION HOLDINGS has agreed to sell its film services division to Panavision, the US designer and manufacturer of film camera systems, for £38 million. The division, which earned £3.95 million before tax in 1996, hires out film cameras and associated equipment for the production of commercials, TV drama and films. VAH will invest the proceeds in continuing businesses, comprising the hire of audio-visual equipment for corporate presentations and product launches, and broadcast video.

#### Irish inflation subdued

INFLATION in the Republic of Ireland remained subdued in April with only a 0.1 per cent rise over the previous month, according to the Central Statistics Office. Over II months from May last year the consumer price index rose 1.4 per cent, down slightly on the previous Il-month period. Meanwhile, the First National Building Society yesterday became the latest institution to increase its interest rates by half a percentage point after last week's interest rate rise by the Irish Central Bank.

#### BHP to raise A\$636m

THE Broken Hill Pty Co (BHP), Australia's largest company, is raising up to A\$636 million (£318 million) from a non-renounceable issue of ordinary shares. The share issue will provide eligible shareholders with the opportunity to purchase additional small parcels of shares up to a maximum value of A\$2,400 per shareholder. The issue follows BHP's decision last year to haive the company's dividend reinvestment and bonus share schemes. BHP has the largest market capitalisation on the Australian stock exchange of A\$35.43 billion.

#### Rentokil disposal

RENTOKIL INITIAL, the business services company, is selling the large cranes of Grayston White and Sparrow, a former BET subsidiary, to Sarens of Belgium for £8 million, it was announced yesterday. The agreement includes the sale of four large cranes and the transfer of 25 operating personnel. The business has a turnover of 54 million and net tangible assets of £6 million. The disposal will give rise to a profit of £600,000, Rentokil said.

# Lonrho sells Swaziland sugar stake for £227m

ared by Dieter Bock, the

former chief executive, who

cut the last of his links with the

company in March. Nicholas Morrell, the new

chief executive, said: The disposal of our shareholding

in Lonrho Sugar Corporation represents a further important

step in realising the inherent value of Lonrho's businesses,

and in reducing group debt."

A demerger, as opposed to outright sale, had been consid-

ered for Lonrho Sugar Corp

but it would not have met the

Inland Revenue's criteria for

Lonrho Sugar owns, oper-

ates and manages sugar cane plantations in South Africa,

Mauritius, Malawi and

Swaziland. Its shares, listed in

Johannesburg and Swaziland.

had moved up from 12.6 rand

to RI6.2 in anticipation of the

sale. The company made a

profit before tax equal to £27.8

million in the year ended March 1996.

The sale prices the shares at

RI3.9 each and the full issued

share capital at R1.723 billion.

lllovo, which has a 44 per

cent share in the domestic

market, recorded sales of R974

million for the half-year to the

Illovo is funding about

inrough an underwritten

share issue. The rest will come from cash and the

issue of new preference

shares. It said that merger benefits of at least R28

million a year have been

identified and earnings

would increase from Sep-

tember next year. Anglo American and Tate & Lyle had been tipped as potential

Lonrho has assurances

from CG Smith Foods, own-

er of 69 per cent of Illovo,

end of March.

bidders.

tax exemption.

LONRHO'S break-up programme marched on yester-day with the sale of its 94.25 per cent stake in Lourho Sugar Corporation, based in Swaziland, for 1.653 billion rand

(£227 million).
The sale to Illovo Sugars of South Africa creates Africa's largest sugar group. The extra strain placed on the currency markets by the deal pushed the rand to its weakest levels. against the dollar in two months.

The deal was widely expected as part of Lourho's drive to get rid of its peripheral businesses and release value to shareholders, who have seen the sprawling conglomerate's share price halve from its peak of more than 300p in the

The strategy had been initi-

#### Northern Rock chief dies

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

CHRISTOPHER SHARP, managing director of the Rock monthly I wo thirds of the purchase ciety, died snädenly terday morning, aged 57. He had suffered a heart

The Northern Rock, the seventh largest society, will become a bank in October in a £1.2 billion stock market flotation. The society confirmed yesterday that these plans remained unchanged

Leo Finn, the society's deputy managing director, who takes over from Mr Sharp said: "It is Chris's greatest desire that Northern Rock complete its conversion to pic status on schedule and to pian, and so remain a vibrant, indeendent force, based in the North East. This is precisely what will now take

Mr Sharp's association with the Northern Rock began in 1970 when he joined the society as its inhouse lawyer. He became chief executive in 1982 and managing director in 1985. A graduate of Pembroke College, Oxford, he had previously pursued a

career in law. During Mr Sharp's time at the top, the Northern Rock has seen considerable expansion. Last year, it took 10 per cent of the market in new loans. It gained second place in the UBS Major Players league which rates the larger building societies on a number of performance

# lifts profits 12.5%

petitive cellular phone market.

"Results like this are too good to be luck," said Dick Brown, deputy chief executive of Hongkong Telecom and chief executive of Britain's Cable and Wireless, which Linus Cheung, Hongkong Telecom's chief executive, said

that it was rebalancing its portfolio of services, and lessening reliance on international direct dial (IDD) revenue. He said that IDD revenue is now 53 per cent of total revenue, down from more than 60 per cent two years ago, but declined to disclose the utility's share of the IDD market.

The utility faces rising competition for international calls from callback operators, in spite of a theoretical monopoly: until 2006, rivals must route their international traffic through Hongkong Telecom. Hongkong Telecom declined to comment on specula-

tion that it may take a partner from mainland China.

#### Writs have been issued against about a dozen distrib-

been showing live football coverage without paying BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by The News Corpora-

# Hundreds queue at the bank — to own it

nouncement, and that many more applications had continued to arrive FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY COLONIAL State Bank has received Under the scheme, which is believed

to be the first true banking franchise in the world, franchisees must pay an upfront fee of A\$60,000 (£30,000) for hundreds of applications from people keen to own their own bank since it unveiled plans to franchise out 60 branches six weeks ago. the right to run a branch for five years Peter Smedley, managing director and an additional A\$45,000 to meet the cost of training staff. They must also lodge a refundable A\$200.000 of Colonial, the life assurance group that owns the bank, said they had received more than 850 applications security deposit with the bank. from potentia, franchisees within the

In return they will be able to offer customers Colonial State Bank's

range of financial services including insurance, investment and funds management as well as traditional banking products, and will earn between A\$80,000 and A\$200,000 a year based on their ability to achieve certain performance criteria.

Mr Smedley said people applying to become franchisees included retailers, accountants, financial planners and Colonial's own staff. Priority would be given to the bank's existing employees. The franchise plan represents a significant shift in focus for Colonial

order to replace them with franchised outlets. Stuart James, Colonial State Bank's managing director, has said that the bank will retain responsibility for maintaining credit standards and approving loans. Colonial will continue to be the financial product manufacturer and the quality controller, with distribution in the hands of "highly motivated small-business people," he said.

State bank, which is set to close about

200 of its 300 traditional branches in

Australia over the next few months, in

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**THEATRE** 

In Stratford the RSC doesn't quite rise to the bloodthirsty mood of Kyd's Spanish Tragedy



OPERA

The Brighton Festival strikes pure dross with a staging of von Einem's Danton's Death THE



DANCE

Choreography lets the side down in Aletta Collins's otherwise fine adaptation of Three Sisters



**■** MUSIC

Simon Rattle goes into spring mode, even if the weather doesn't. in Birmingham

# First to cry for revenge

four corpses left on stage and four off.

Kyd's Spanish Tragedy, which was written two
decades earlier and can claim. to be its most important pre-cursor, outmatches its body-count. Three characters are in various states of decay in the wings. Six are waiting to be carted off by the morticians. The tongue that the protagonist has bitten off before stabbing himself to death lies centre stage. like some strav-berry jellybean. And the ghost of yet another unfortunate sits cackling with glee at what has been a good day for the

revenge industry.

With a little help from Seneca, Kyd invented that most popular of Elizabethan genies, the revenge tragedy. indeed, there is good reason to suppose that in the 1580s he wrote the lost play known as Ur-Hamlet and widely agreed to be Shakespeare's prime source for his own treatment of the Elsinore story. Certainly, all contemporary directors of Hamlet itself should be forced to spend an evening reading Kyd. The experience would doubtless remind them of how much subtlery Shakespeare brought to revenge drama; but, more importantly, it might show them that our. ancestors felt vengeance with a-visceral intensity that modern English actors and theatregoers have mislaid.

It would be impossible to stage The Spanish Trugedy quite as gutlessly as Hamlet is regularly staged. It is too blunt, crude and direct. What is the Spanish pobleman Don Andrea's postnumous reaction to the Portuguese prince, Balthazar, who has killed him in banie? Why, to return to Earth and team up with a character called Revenge, who in Michael Boyd's production is sometimes a hooded grey. figure, sometimes an offstage voice, sometimes a half-mad

The Spanish Tragedy Swan, Stratford

babble echoing from

And what does Balthazar do when he discovers that the woman he fancies, Bel-Imperia, loves one Horatio? To hiss "I must take revenge or die myself" and, in cahoots with the princeling Lorenzo, to hang and disembowel his rival. And does Horatio's And does Horatio's father. Hieronimo, take a resigned view of the matter? That is a silly question, for this is a world where the good avenger does not just kill his enemies. He pursues them to Hell and ensures they are "dragged through boiling Acheron and live dying still in endless flames. Is it impossible for a director

nowadays to do full justice to an author who sees anger and evil as two active forces, ferociously interlocked for eternity? Are revivals of his work likely to leave us feeling more kidded than Kydded? I fear so. There is much that is admirable in Boyd's production. He resists the temptation to send up the play's sensations. He stages the proceedings with tough clarity on a stage that mostly stays bare. He gets decent performances from Robert Glenister, whose villpine shant of the mouth well suits Lorenzo, and Siobhan Redmond, a shattered, bewildered Bel-Imperia, and (especially) Patrice Naismbana whose Andrea is to be found prowling the stage in furious frustration when he is not balefully hammering at it.

Yet something - total belief in the characters grim obsessions? - still proves clusive. The problem is epitomised by



Peter Wight's Hieronimo, who prefigures Hamlet by contemplating suicide and running a bit mad but needs also to be possessed by a vindictive monomania alien to the Dane. Wight makes the interesting choice of playing the character

as a bereft bumbler out of his depth: Polonius as hitman. It does not meet the emotional occasion. Nor, quite, does the

**NIGHTINGALE** 

BENEDICT

DANCE: Aletta Collins and Laurie Booth at the Spring Loaded festival

# Looking good, saying little

A list of thearness in addilist of theatrical credits tion to her own dance productions over the years, she has choreographed and co-directed Un Ballo in Maschera for. Munich; did the same with Birtwistle's The Second Mrs Kong for Glyndebourne; and choreographed the current West End production of Jesus Christ Superstar. One thing all this has taught her is how

to stage a good show. Her dance adaptation of Chekhov's Three Sisters (at the Place Theatre) is craftily arranged. With a cast of four, and a simple set at her disposal - tree, wall, window and chair are all that Tom Cairns needs to suggest the sisters' stifling domestic environment - Collins is able to encompass the general ennui of Chekhov's frustrated heroines and the inexorability of their ever-narrowing horizons. The choice of music is

AS I was saying before I had to rush off

to the news pages to chart the airwave

progress of that nice but firm Mr Blair,

a lot of people have been complaining to

Radio 4 about all these American programmes the network has been

transmitting over the past few months.

Many of the people who wrote to Feedback demanded more European

programming, which should have been sufficient early warning to the Conser-

vatives that posters showing Blair on-

Helmur Kohl's knee were unlikely to

have middle England rushing to vote

big enough to take the weight. And I can

confirm this because Kohl wears size

XXL in cardigans. Not a lot of people would have known that without listen-

ing to Bismarck in a Cardigan (Radio 4,

Wednesday), an excellent documentary about Chancellor Kohl.

. The cardigan in question occupies a

German History in Bonn, and it was

chosen to symbolise the sheer size of the

Chancellor's reputation. Its presence

also suggests that the image of Ger-

for the nearest Eurosceptic.

Sledge hit We Are Family cheekily introduces our three miserable siblings, dressed in shapeless cardigans and sensi-ble shoes, listlessly offering their thumbs in the hope that some passing motorist will whisk them away to Moscow. The use of Tchaikovsky's nos-talgic piano music could be a smiling reference to MacMillan's Chekhovian Winter

Dreams for Covent Garden. But staging isn't everything when it comes to dance. And choreography is often over-looked in the challenge to be theatrical. Collins tries to suggest the uncertainty and maiaise that incapacitates the sisters in the choreography (for herself, Bernadette Iglich and Rachel Krische). But her movements lack a richness of personality, that ability to elaborate on pasic emotional impulses. A low-brow humour elicits odd laughs (fine performance here by the lone male,

Dan O'Neill), but the production never makes up its mind which way it wants to go.

One thing you can say for Laurie Booth. When it comes to collaborators, he sure knows how to pick them. Both of his Spring Loaded pieces (at the Queen Elizabeth Hall) had the advantage of compelling aural and visual personalities. Which made it all the more annoying that so little of consequence was happening within these atmospheric landscapes.

The programme opener, Stormgarden, featured a thrusting and systematic soundscape by Hans Peter Kuhn, a frequent Booth collab-orator. Its clangs, burbles, rumbles and roars added up to an impressive collection of elemental cries and whispers. Paul Burwell's sleek set design practically reverberated with the gusts of wind generated by the small fans.

for himself and Gary Lambert was characteristically loose-limbed and well-oiled, the body winding and unwinding like a corkscrew. But how irritating to watch choreography that was so concerned with busying limbs and exer-

ed sound from Scanner (aka Robin Rimbaud), a "telephone terrorist" who uses snatches of mobile phone conversations in his aural collages. This score, though, contained only the briefest of phone talk; it bulged with cobbled-together melodies of many musical hues. Here the body definition of the three dancers - Booth. Lambert and Shelly Baker carried a wilder, wider and more spontaneous message than Stormgarden, meatier in its muscularity and more seductively physical to watch.

DEBRA CRAINE

# **Britain** tunes in to Europe

mans having a sense of humour to the same extent that the Dutch have Mind you. I can confirm that Kohl is mountains may be a little unfair. One doubts that any British museum would have the wit to send for John Major's

speciacles. David Sells presented the programme. Indeed, contrary to the views of complainants about too much Americana, Sells has done many good documentaries on radio about various aspects of European political life.

prominent place in the Museum of The use of Bismarck in the title refers to the fact that if Kohl wins the German general election next year, he could

outstrip Bismarck (19 years) as the longest-serving German Chancellor. Sells deftly illustrated Kohl's twin images: as the unifier who sees a European federation as banishing for-ever the risk of war and, conversely, as the obsessive patriot imposing German power on the rest of the Continent.

Sells is a journalist who describes the landscape rather than trying to persuade us of its merits and flaws. Therefore, the listener was left to decide which of these Kohls is the real one. Perhaps the answer is both. The programme demonstrated that Kohl is a man of charm and cunning, the deadliest combination known to politics.

Wherever Blair is taking us at Amsterdam and beyond, we need more programmes like this ahead of any future referendum on Europe.
Meanderings along the Mississippi are
all well and good, but the murky waters
of the Rhine, the Danube and the Seine are where radio needs to shine its light now. Let us hope enough listeners gather on the banks.

PETER BARNARD

# Case for the guillotine

ANY regional festival brave enough to mount the British premiere of a 50-year-old opera by an Austrian composer who is barely a household name in his own household deserves success. But as escaped at the end of Gottfried von Einem's French Revolution opera Danton's Death with a heartfelt cry of "liberte!", I felt only sadness that the Brighton Festival had struck pure dross. This is Les Mis without the tunes - or. for that matter, the plot, the characterisation or the emo-

What a pity. Von Einem is one of the good guys of 20th-century musical history: a political liberal imprisoned by the Nazis, but a musical conservative with a style hovering somewhere between Strauss and Berg. For von Einem, Georg Büchner's great drama Dantons Tod chilling portrait of moderation crushed and bloodlust rampant during Robespierre's Reign of Terror - would have held special significance.

**OPERA** 

Danton's Death Dome, Brighton

But when he came to set it to music he put all the passion into the orchestral writing: a score rich in nagging rhythms, baleful brass outbursts, ominous bass patterns and eerie counterpoints, admirably delivered here by the Flanders Symphony Orchestra under David Angus's cogent direction. To the singers, regrettably, he gave all too little of substance.

The text (newly translated by Amanda Holden) gabbles on about power, corruption and revolution, yet no solo seems to be extended more than a few seconds. At the beginning, at least, exchanges are woefully sketchy. The execution itself is a hopeless anticlimax. Only at the end of each act — when Lucile, the wife of Danton's comrade

Camille Desmoulins, goes melodiously bonkers - does von Einem work up any sort of

dramatic momentum. Whether a production more focused than John Lloyd Davies's for New Sussex Opera would have given Danton a fighting chance of life before death is debatable. The early scenes (coquettish prostitutes in brothel; mob being beastly to toff) looked like a fancydress party in an advertising agency. Then, for Danton's trial, Davies switched to the sort of frenetic lighting-plot last seen in Dagenham discos in the late Seventies.

All very distracting for the singers. Even so, Alan Oke's powerful Camille, Alison Roddy's Lucile and Andrew Slater's Danton impressed. But the NSO Chorus should have been twice as large and more than twice as accurate. All in all, an evening which made one feel that the guillotine had its merits.

RICHARD MORRISON

### Brightening up the season

FOR anyone travelling to Symphony Hall through an early-evening blizzard Sir Si-mon Rattle's celebration of spring — Delius's First Cuckon. Schumann's and Britten's Spring Symphonies - must have seemed sadly out of place. After the concert, with the jubilant sound of Britten's finale fresh in the mind, it was definitely the weather that was out of place.

As a symphony, Britten's settings of 13 texts from as many different sources do not add up. But there are some masterful things here, like the drizzling Waters Above, and the star-lit Out on the Lawn I Lie in Bed; and there is the finale where Britten risks everything on an undistinguished waltz tune and an unfortunate cowhorn and intoxicates with it.

It depends on how it is done, of course. Although all three

CONCERT CBSO/Rattle Birmingham

soloists - Joan Rodgers, Catherine Robbin and Ian Bostridge - had sung freely and cheerfully in Spring, the Sweet Spring, and although the mezzo was particularly eloquent in the Auden setting, they were not always at ease with each other. But the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Youth Chorus had been exceptionally well prepared and it was they, encouraged by Ranie's supreme last effort, who finally lifted the performance onto the ecstatic level which the work must attain if it is to survive.

Why the conductor modified Schumann's string scoring at

of his First Symphony it is impossible to imagine. While the first violins might well have got a warmer sound out of the melodic line by concentrating their efforts on the Gstring, rather than dividing into octaves, that is not what is required of them. When a conductor and orchestra can treat Schumann's scoring as effectively as Simon Rattle and the CBSO did elsewhere in the work, it seems a pity not to shed the same kind of illumi-

nation on all of it. As for the First Cuckoo in Spring, it seemed a little lost in Symphony Hall where, in spite of some seductive woodwind sounds the colours some how failed to blend into the gently protective atmosphere it needs for the projection of its poetic message

GERALD LARNER





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POP 1

The Big Bang spirit of Nirvana lives on in the new album from Foo Fighters



POP 2

. while Robert Cray offers more of his meticulously organised blues on Sweet Potato Pie





POP 3

The spiciest thing from Sunderland? Upwardly mobile Kenickie flex their girl-power



POP 4

It really is one-derful, says Caitlin Moran in defence of the BBC's pop station .

lixt

# Ten million reasons to love your Radio 1

The wonderful one's audience may have halved, but it

is changing the face of pop. So be glad to be British

ing collections of sylla-bles in the English language must be "market forces". Dumb, brutal, and slick with the greases of greed. market forces would have us believe that libraries, parks, public swimming baths, are galleries, museums and music are self-indulgent luxuries. while nuclear weaponry is something to be encouraged. Which is why the tutting column inches devoted to Radio 1's "decline" are so disappointing.
From its 1970s peak of 20

million listeners, when "characters" such as the Hairy Cornflake (Dave Lee Travis) and the Bearded Pish Peddlar (Noel Edmunds) told jokes that a budgle could have scripted, the rejigged Radio I now pulls in a mere 10.2 million. Market forces. it would seem, do not go a bundle on the sounds of the underground, and DJs who know about music and refuse to talk down to their audience. The ten million drop-off is somehow seen as a massive failure, as though success can only be measured in numbers.

It's easy to engage market

forces if you are willing to disengage three-quarters of your brain. Simply play a mixture of the tried-and-tested and the 1990s equivalent of easy listening - Celine Dion. Michael Bolton, Peter Andre, Boyzone. Get in a boorish DJ to make obvious, laboured quips about the Royal Family. the Spice Girls and "Whacko Jacko". Radio I pursued this broadcasting direction for much of the 1980s, foisting on us the clunking whimsy of posse" and the living horror of Jakki Brambles, who

seemed to believe that being into Living In A Box but also having a Smiths album made her a talent pusher on a par with John Peel,

But with the loosening up of broadcasting licences in the late 1980s, Radio I started losing listeners hand over fist to stations offering big cash prizes and "shock locks". so named because they were



CAITLIN MORAN

talking jock straps. Radio 1 and at the beginning of the 1990s the only audience that wasn't being catered for was the under-25s. As Radio 1's remit is to educate, inform and play cool music for hipsters in Nikes and dreads, it finally shook off the MOR horror of the 1980s. Along with the shakeup of Top of the Pops. it was one of the best things to happen to music since Bob Dylan plugged into the mains.

The fact that Britain is currently undergoing a musical renaissance is almost entirely due to the BBC. As a public broadcasting service, only Radio 1 is in a position to ignore the strangling fiscal considerations of market forces. Placebo, the Chemical Brothers, Prodigy, Manic Divine Comedy, Oasis, DJ Shadow and Pulp are all now

big stars influencing the mainstream - remember when Phil Collins vowed that his next album would be "very Oasis?" - would never have gotten airplay anywhere else; and their success can only be to the betterment of British

Music is, after all, our third biggest export, and those timid, lukewarm playlists of the 1960s meant that our artists were drawing on an evershrinking, stagnant pool of influences. Now, of course, we are in the exciting position of having a forthcoming generation of artists who are all postdrum and bass, trance, lo-fi and hip hop, and who will combine all of these to invent new and juicy music for the

Because it is so difficult to put a value and a worth to some things - and because we are all so obsessed with putting value and worth on - market forces are seen as the most valid indicators of success. But market forces are only an accurate vardstick for a limited number of commodities. No City analyst would say there was a "need" for a moderately successful public broadcasting service playing electrifying new music to a fairly limited audience. But then, why would anyone care what a City analyst had to say about

In ways that many business executives — and journalists would never understand, Melody Maker and Radio I are far more important than the Financial Times. Like Eddie izzard, the clockwork radio. Amnesty International and something that should make us proud to be British.



# Halfway to paradise

POO FIGHTERS

The Colour and the Shape (Capitol CDEST 2295 £13.99) ALTHOUGH he has emerged from the Nirvana nightmare in surprisingly good shape, drummer turned singer and guitarist Dave Grohl seems to have become inextricably wedded to the Big Bang method of Colour and the Shape, Foo Fighters' second album, is stiff with songs that start off quietly and then explode into life like greyhounds out of the traps. This practice even extends to the running order of the album, which is prefaced with a brief quiet track, Doll. followed immediately by the explosive Monkey Wrench, a low-rent pastiche of the

But when he avoids this cliche, as on the slow build and epic sweep of My Hero or the affecting acoustic ballad Walking After You. Grohl shows himself capable of more than just cruising on his reputation as one of the hard-

est hitters in modern rock. It is a tall order these days for any American band to make big guitars and a traditional belting beat sound like anything other than an old-lashioned hangover from grunge, but Grohl has plenty of tantalisingly good ideas to offer, as he demonstrates on numbers ranging from the delirious Wind Up to the dreamy February Stars. Which makes The Colour and the Shape doubly disappointing — given a slighdy fresher spin, it could have been great.

BIG HEAD TODD & THE MONSTERS Beautiful World Revolution/RCA 74321 44109

THEY have been around since 1986, but Big Head Todd & the Monsters are still likely to surprise anyone who takes their rather daunting name at face value. The trio from Boulder, Colorado, has fashioned an educated, blue-rinsed rock sound which, on gentler numbers such as Please Don't Tell Her and the title track of their fifth album, Beautiful World, echoes the plaintive appeal of Eric Clapton's more melodically adept work in the

Produced by Jerry Harrison, formerly of Talking Heads, the album boosts a sublimely romantic feel. Singer and songwriter Todd Park Mohr keeps his voice in tune and his guitar sound unfailingly clean, but there is plenty of muscle in the romping rhythm of Resignation Super-man and the sure-footed soloing of Crazy Mary.

The only incongruous note is struck by a version of John Lee Hooker's standard Boom Boom, featuring Hooker himself on vocals. The band rip into it with deceptively casual ease and the number soon grows wings it never had belone. It is a great periormance, but leaves the unsettling impression that they may have been holding back on the throttle a little too carefully on

POP ALBUMS: Dave Grohl's latest attempt to lay the ghost of Nirvana almost comes off, says David Sinclair

KENICKIE'

At the Club-(Emidisc 7243 8 56147 £12.49) NOT holding back in any department are Kenickie from teenage girls with attitude to launch an assault on the nation's charts and an older generation's nerves.

Pitching their stall somewhere between the confrontstional angst of Courtney Love's Hole ("Now her kisses full at first/Ache like blisters waiting to get burst") and the cartoon silliness of Shampoo "We dress cheap/We dress tacky/We dance for thrills").

Compact discs reviewed here and on page 30 can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

Kenickie sweep through a raft shine is gradually worn away of traditional sounding punk-by the glaring lack of depth pop anthems on their debut and variety. pop anthems on their debut album like a crowd of rowdy

schoolgirls gatecrashing a There are some ear-catching moments, especially Robot Song, with its oddly automated rhythm track and sad, existentialist lyric. But as hap-

pens so often with this kind of exercise, the album's initial

Tellin' Stories White on Blonde

In it for the Money

Spice Girls (Virgin)

Brand New Heavies (FFrr

(Mercury 534 698 £13.99) THERE is a tendency fon even the greatest blues artists to become, at a certain stage in their careers, rather nonchalant about their recording commitments. But with more

TOPTENACHMEN

and poise from the brooding. slow blues of Back Home to

Can't Quit. The Memphis Horns - absent from his last album, Some Rainy Morning - are reinstated, adding a zestřul touch to Cray's soulful vocals and ultra-dry guitar sound, especially with the lovely cascading motif at the end of Simple Things.

than 20 years on the road and

ten albums under his belt, this

has not yet happened to Rob-

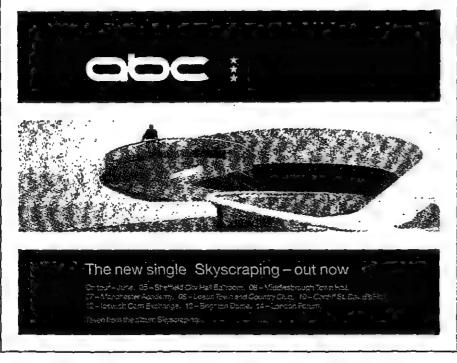
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Sweet Potato Pie is another

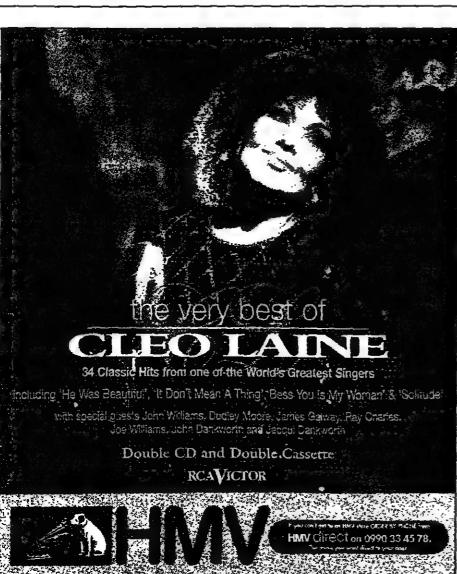
meticulously organised collec-

tion of songs, mostly written

by Cray, which coze elegance

What Cray has lost, over the years, is the element of sur-prise, and the familiarity of his urbane touch now tends to obscure the marvellous depth of his talent. Let's hope he does not have to wait until he is in his seventies before his genius is rediscovered by the three million or so people who have bought Strong Persuader







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the remix

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POP 6

.. and even the new album from Michael Jackson will dance to the computer's tune





■ TOMORROW

How does Alex Jennings rate as the RSC's new Hamlet? Read Benedict Nightingale's view



■ TOMORROW

Pavarotti in recital, and the other big weekend shows. are listed in The Directory

# Mixtures as never before

Michael Jackson and Madonna know that if you want to get a hit, get a dance remix. Paul Sexton reports

uffering from creative block? Going though a commercial slump? Image crisis bothering you? You need the new superhero of the record industry. Simply open your wallet and send for Remix Man. He can remake tender ballads 128 beats-per-minute thumpers at a single bound and get the audience dancing happily around their handbags. He can turn a sensitive singer-songwriter into such a denizen of danceland that their own mother wouldn't

recognise them. Club version, dub style, urban groove, R&B mix, instrumental version, radio edit: you name it, he'll morph it, and it's odds-on your record will be more marketable as a result. It might not be a song anymore, but never mind the melody, feel the bpm.

Next Wednesday Michael Jackson will invade every record store in the world with a new album to tie in with his concert tour, which hits Britain on July 9. But closer inspection of Blood on the Dance Floor: HIStory in the Mix reveals it not to be a freshly formed piece of work in the conventional sense. Only five of its 13 pieces are new songs; the other eight are tracks first heard on 1995's HIStory: Past Present and Future, among them such benign ballads as You Are Not Alone and Stranger in Moscow, remodelled by the studio technicians who have become part of the new power elite in

pop.
The sonic-scientists behind such pre-eminent talents as Todd Terry: Frankie Knuckles

and David Morales and newer names such as Tony Moran, a 32-year-old New Yorker who says that he is employed for one reason only. They don't give me any directions, they just say make

Labels thus spend vast sums altering the music they have already paid a record producer vast sums to supervise in

> 6 Remix Man can turn tender ballads into 128 bpm thumpers 9

the first place. Not that the mixes themselves need be costly to complete anymore, Moran says. "All you need is a computer. The programs to sequence the songs on aren't expensive either. The Bucketheads record The Bomb, a huge 1995 hit fash-ioned out of bits of an old record by Chicago, is almost a pure sample from beginning to end, a record that could be made for \$50."

The remix industry grew from the simple 1970s notion that some music might become more danceable with a little studio post-production. In those days of discotheques and mirrorballs there was the seven-inch version for radio. clubs, and that was your lot.

ed every corner of the music business, and the industry discovered just what a magic marketing wand the remix could be. So it was that the knob-twiddlers and mousedickers moved in on Madonna's interpretation of Don't Cry For Me Argentina from soundtrack of Evita. In perhaps the club genre's most gruesome piece of larceny to date, the familiar ballad was dragged kicking and screaming on to the dancefloor, and the perfect crime was completed when chibgoers lapped up the remixes and substantially enhanced the song's chart performance, taking it past

y such mysterious means can entire caanother sensitive singer-songwriter before the English duo DNA got their hands on her a cappella Tom's Diner in 1990. took it to the bright lights of clubland and introduced Vega, temporarily at least, to the youngest and funkiest audience she had ever known. In January Tori Arnos's single Professional Widow whose songs had never got

Then dance culture infiltrat- be the final creative process,"

200,000 sales in the UK.

reers be refuelled. Suzanne Vega was just

was repromoted with remixes by DJ Armand Van Helden, who stripped it down, remade it unrecognisably around a meaningless vocal line, and gave a No I hit to an artist within a country mile of a dancefloor before.
For an old-fashioned song-

writer like Paddy McAloon of Prefab Sprout, it is a perplexing business. "It's an oddwhat you thought was going to

Michael Jackson's new album Blood on the Dance Floor contains only five new songs — and eight remixes of songs from his last album he says. "Here you are as the reator', and what you've done has been handed on to

Future Sound Of London had some kind of club hit with a song of ours, You Don't Love Me, that owed nothing to the original. It was great, but it

was nothing to do with me."

Kenny "Dope" Gonzalez is half of Masters At Work, responsible for the Bucketheads hit and known as one of the most powerful of remix teams, with clients including Madonna and Jackson. He and partner Louie Vega have recently curtailed that lucrative line of work to develop their own vibrant R&B/jazz collective, Nuyorican Soul. Now, ironically, the poach-

ers have turned gamekeepers and Gonzalez says the duo have blocked record company attempts to restyle their work. They wanted to do remixes on our stuff, but we're like: 'No, we don't want people to per-With many radio programmers nervous of supporting

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ballads, airplay can also loosen record company budgets to finance upbeat mixes. Toni Braxton's Unbreak My Heart may have been a romantic power ballad through and through, but when a beatfilled version was made available, radio lapped it up and helped the song to a fourmonth stay in our charts.

And if the enforced jollity of that mix was hard for easylisteners to take, one wonders what they will make of Moran's "extended club mix" of I'd Really Love to See You Tonight, a lovely mid-1970s ballad by England Dan and John Ford Coley and now a floor-filling single by, wait for it, Barry Manilow.

"I've only got the best re-sponse to that," Moran says. When you see him live, singing the song as a dance record, everyone gets up. His audience is from 25 to 75 and you see them all shaking whatever they have to shake." Michael Jackson's Blood on the Dance Floor: HIStory in the Mix is

# Andromeda Heights The Brilliant New Album Out now rinning allenn so its. Androneds Heigh's Ewon'n its war in gold." MAIL ON SUNDAY "... a perfumed atmosphere of adulterous love and harmonia are $\theta$ "This is no music as an arc" MOIO . Feiter figen leiking Nestola from the sted of Juliene Pinoche's knies." TIME OLT Ancieroscus Heights has 12 songs of such soursing stellock factor that gidth lythal rapiane tiut they ringhous well have come from another galaxy? HAHY MAH "McAkon is the bose sengation of his general be." THE OBSERVER Featuring the bit suggle "A Prisoner of the Pasi

### All the old dude

THESE days, Ian Hunter (at the Waterfront, Norwich) is almost as famous for his literary efforts as for his music. When his Diary of a Rock'n'Roll Star, first published in 1974, was recently reissued, it was hailed as one of the best ever books about rock. His waspish account of life on the road with his band, Mott the Hoople, established him

as pop's Alan Clark.
What is most striking about the book, though, is how little it says about the performances, and how much is devoted to the business of killing time and complaining of the inadequacies of promot-

#### CONCERT

ers, caterers and rock journalists. Yet it was the live shows that really forged Mott's reputation in their heyday. Fortunately. Hunter's current tour manages to recall some of that old energy without recourse to excessive nostalgia.

He may now be the wrong side of 50, but he still retains the halo of curly hair, the large shades and the plaintive. coarse-edged voice. He also remains committed to the Dylanesque ballad and the bar-room boogie. He opens with Once Bitten Twice Shy, a hit from his string of solo albums of the late 1970s. He gives a blistering rendition of All the Way From Memphis and a passionate version of IWish I Was Your Mother, both from one of Mott's last records. He encores with a strangely stately version of All the Young Dudes, the song

David Bowie wrote for Mott. Hunter is not content, however, just to recycle the past. He has a new album to promote, The Artful Dodger. and from it comes the melancholic Now is the Time, the gospel-inflected Something To Believe In and the cockney rock of 23a, Swan Hill. All of them are fine songs, well served by his five-piece band.

Hunter may be destined to remain in a pop twilight, but he continues to offer pleasures that bear comparison with those provided by such currently fashionable acts as

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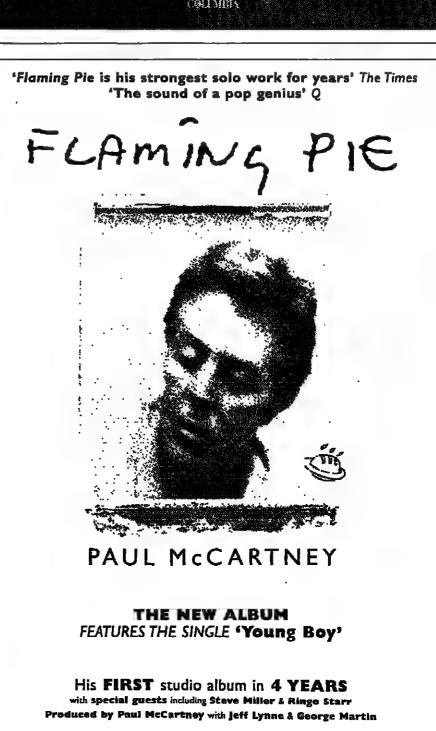
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CHOICE 1

Marcel Marceau's alter ego, the white-faced Bip, is 50 years old VENUE: Tonight at the

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■ CHOICE 2

Felicity Kendal is Madame Arkadina in a new version of The Seagull

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#### LONDON

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TI May 7 ch President. FORTUNE COOKIES In the build-up to the handover of Hong Kong on June Lemorning tir sure Centr 30, a season of provocative and radical performances and installations on being Chineses begins today and runs until June 8. Sheng Qi, a visual and performance entist from Achiu province, performs Universal Brand Happy, Chinden in the Nash Room (Junight and tomorrow 8pm) in A Life of Living Tagether (terright and tomorrow 9pm), Chinese movement artist Wen Hui and independent tim-maje in Wu Wenguang offer an Intrinsic insight into the urbanified of young people in modem China (CA. The Mail SW1 (0171-930 3447), for tickets and information. Six members ty and was re Lind Lieut His Roy for Harbison Ste Lord-Lieut (Colonel S. Fr Banalion a ca BUCKING Er Elizabeth

MARCEL MARCELLI The Stori anniversary of Bip. Merceau's famous white-faced, sinpe-shirled mirrie, is celebrated with a single British performance here Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-9014201) Tomorrow 7.30pm (2) THE SEAGULL. Felicity Keridal plays Mediame Air adina, Michael Permingtor to Tingonn and Victiona Harmiton plays. Nina in Pater Half's production of Tom Stoppard's new version of Chekhov Old Vic Waterloo Road, SE1 (017) 928 7616) Opens tanight, 7 30pm Then lomanow, 7 30pm In rep. ELSEWHERE

BLACKPOOL The choreographer Stobhan Davies celebrates 26 years of

ART David Haig, Anton Leaser,
Mark Williams in the exceptionally
interesting drame about frendship,
unspoken issentment and an almost all-

white paraling Wignelbarn's, Charing Cross Road, WCC (0171-369 1735) Mon-Sal, Spm. mais Wed. 3pm. Sat, Spm. Until October 4 DONA ROSITA: Phosbe Nicholis blys the patient spinster, pointlessly hopeful, but then this is Lorca. Eleanor stron, kathyn Hunter, Celia Imme, Kerry Shale, Che Switt also leature in Physica Lloyd's production. Almelde, Almeeda Sheet, N1 (0171-389 4404) Mon-Sat, 7 John; mar Sat, 3pm. Unit June 7.

CI EAST IN EAST. Second West End showing for Ayub Nhan-Din's highly enjoyable tamay drama, come; and senous, sel in 1970s Salford where a Palystem patriarch vainly tree to bring up his six children according to ancestral fraction.

Peyal Court Downstains (Duke of York's), St Martin's Lanc, WC2 (0171-566 5000) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mats Sat, 3,30pm Umil May 24 CI FAT JANET to DEAD: Last year's Playwhing Fasthal winner Steven Smith's comedy set on a south London

smith a comeany set on a south Laine estate during New Year E Eva 1978 where an unifiely the celebrates the approaching decade Jessica Dromgoole duelds Warehouse, Droywall Road, East Creydon (0181-880 4060) Previews begin tonight, Bpm Opana May 13.

#### **NEW RELEASES**

. ANACONDA (15): Silv turn in the ANACONDA 115): Silv turn in the isinitized with Jennifiz Lobad. Jen Voolt, and an unconvening great stake Director, Luss Losa.
Greenwich (0181-315-305) Odeoner: Kinskington (0181-315-4215) Marbie Arch (0181-315-4215) Series Cottoge (0181-316-4216) Series Cottoge (0181-316-420) UCI Walteleys (0190-88990) Wirglin Futhern Road (0171-370-2839)

CRYPNG FREEMAN (18) Heavily stylized gang wer thriller, adopted from Japanese comic book, with Mark Dacascos and Julia Concine Douglas. Director. Christophe Guris, ABC Plocedity (0171-437 3561) 4 QHOSTS FROM THE PAST (15) 

KIDS RETURN Delnouens rum xers Thoughtful partly tothographical film from Japanese cult director Takeshi krising ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647) KOLYA (12): Confirmed bachelos is

NOLYA (12) Confirmed bachejor si imbered with a five-year-old boy Enchanting Caech Ciscar-winner, directed by Jan Swerak Curzon Wayfair (0.171-359 17:20) Gate & (0.171-727 40:23) Remoir (0.171-937 &-101 Remoir (0.171-737 21:21) Screen/Balker Street (0.171-935 2772)

#### WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts compiled by Gillian Maxey

dance-making with a four-venue tour of Britain, in a new double left Dawes presents a revised version of White Man Seeps, made for the ineuguration of her own company in 1988. Her new work, Barill, set to music for inamonica and porcussion, receives us world premore tomphil, with a huther performance formorow.

Grand, Church Street (01253-28372), tomphil and tomorow 8pm. Next in Brighton, Gerdiner Arts. Centre (01273-709709). May 15-17. Cembridge Arts. (01223-503333), May 30 and 31.

Sheffield, Church Life (0114-276-9922), June 3 and 4.

BURY ST EDMUNDS Sevente *en lête* bagins with an evening of tree! music, theatre, dance and comedy in muse, theatre, dance and comedy in the Abbey Gardens storaght. 7pm) and the world premere of John Hardy 3 engrossing new opera. The Roswell incident, by Muse Theatre Wales at the Theatre Royal (torught 7 30pm) Burry St Edmunds Festival (V1284 766505) Today to May 25

IPSWICH, Faydeau's lamiler would-be adulterers and lovers hurtle in and out of

#### THEATRE GUIDE

THE HERITAL NED Pour Wester' Shakespeare's daughter, and Srep Boxer her Purrian inquisitor Duchass, Catherine Street, WC2 are's daughter, and Stephen (0171-494 5075) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm, mets Wed and Sat, 2 30pm

LADY IN THE DARK: The 1941 Li LADY IN THE DARK The 1941 musical by Moss Hart, Ira Gershwn and Kurt Weil A fashion editor (Mana Friedman) visits her psychiatriel to tell of her dreams about three men All songs except the linking ballod, My Ship, occur in the dream sequences. Directed by Francisca Zambello Methodology (Lythetton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-929 2252) Tonight-Tues, 7,30pm, mat Sat and Tues, 2,15pm, In rep. DI ACCUMINDERMERS SAN

#### CINEMA GUIDE

MOLL FLANDRIPS (12)\* Robin Wright survives 18th-century London Quil variation on Defoe's novel, writies and directed by Pen Densham, ABC Shaheabury Avenue (0171-838 ury Avenue (0171-838

CURRENT DONNIE BRASCO (18): FBi agent
 Indicates Metia visaguy Al Downie Brisacco (18): Fis agen
Johnny Dap bolineros Melia, wisegu
Pacino Thoughinul pangster sage,
directed by Milks Newell
ABC Better Street (0171-935-9772)
Berbicon (§) (0171-938-991) Claphi
Billeton (§) (1914-938-991) use (0171-499 3323) offing Hill Coronet (5) (0171-727 5705) Odeons: Kensington (0161-316 4214) Marble Arch (0161-315 4216) 4214) Marche (1981-316 4220) Wed Swiss Cottage (1981-316 4220) Wed End (1981-315 4221) Rio (1971-254 6677) Ribay (1971-737 2121) Screen/Green (1971-728 3520) UCI Whiteleys & (1990 888990) Virgin Cheises (1971-352 5096)

◆ THE ENGLISH PATIENT (15; Mapmaking Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for kinstin Scott Thomas. Epic.

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(10171-287 8408) National: Dürer's
Salm Jerome (1917-747 2885) 10171-287 8408) National Direct's Saint Jerome (0171-747 2885)
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Theetre Royal, Haymartet, SW( (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, Born; men Thurs, Spm. Sat, Spm. Until June 28 ☐ MASTER CLASS. Print Li-Pome recreates her Broadway starring role as Marra Callas in Terrence McNetly's Tony-working play where the great dives puls aspring opera singers through their paces. Leonard Foglia directs

EL TONI AND CHEM AND MEDOWARD and Michael Gambon as sober Atthe and Remboyani Driberg, sorting out the world all Poisdem.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6007) Mon-Sax, 7 30pm; mais Wed and Sax, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS □ Blood Brothers, Pricent (0171-389 1733) ■ Buddy Strand (0171-930 8800) □ The Complete Works of William Bhekaspeare (Abridged): Criterion (0171-389 1737)

Si Jesus Christ Superster Lycsum (0171-666 1807) Di Martin Guerre Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) Les Misérables Palace (0171-434 Prince Edward (0171-447 5400)

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remvich (0181-235 3005) Odeons: hsington (0181-315 4214) zzanine (0 (0181-315 4215) Swies 2636) Warner (0171-437 4343)

◆ LIAR LIAR (12) Lawyer Jim Carrel relis the truth for 24 hours. Attractive comedy, soft round the edges ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Tottenham Court Road (0171-606 6148) Empire (0290-888 990) wich (0181-235 3005) Ode ursement (10181-315-243-005-006-005; Kensington (10181-315-4214) Marchie Arch (10181-315-4216) Swies Cottage (10181-315-4220) Rittay (10171-37-2121) UCI Whitelays (3) (10990-886990); Virgina: Fullium Rood (10171-370 2836) Trocadero (3) (10171-334 0031) \* THE PEOPLE VS LARRY FLYNT (18). Plotercoaster ride arrough the life and court cases of the pornographer

pleyed by Woody Harriston
Clenon Swiss Cottage (V181-315
4220) UCI Whiteleys (V1990 88990)
Virgin Chetses (0171-325 9096)
Warner West End (0171-427 4343) ◆ SCREAM (18) Wes Crister's north: romp, with New Campbell Greenwich (018: 235 3005) Ocioens: Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marisie Arch (0181-315 4220) Plata (5 (0290 888996) (0181-315 4220) Plata (5 (0290 888996) Plata (7 (0290 888996) Plata (7 (0290 889996) Plata (7 (0290 88996) Plata (7 (0290 8

The Second Symphony is as good a place to start as any with this accessible composer.

Petter Sundkvist the Royal Scottish National Orchestra makes a convincingly sympa-Stenhammar's upward-striving symphonic overture Excelsion, is the same as that on Neeme Järvis recording for BIS. Both the latter and Jarvi's remake for DG are strong full-price recommendations.

MASTER CLASS

EMI CDC 5 56411 2\*\* EI2.99 EMI's latest Callas compilation is "inspired by the West End play". Terence McNally's Master Class at the Oueen's. McNally in turn was inspired are getting a bit incestuous could have a point. Half the CD is devoted to

on her knowledge and style; coaxing and constantly correcting one young singer as Rosina in Rossini's Barbiere and another as Mimi in Boheme. When class is over we move directly into Callas's versions of their arias, recorded in 1958 and 1954 respectively. Neither Rosina nor Mimi eatures at the Queen's, so the CD's advertising claim about well loved arias....heard during the Master Class production" does not bear too much examination.

However there are complete scenes from Bellini's La sonnambula and Verdi's Macbeth, which dominate respectively first and second half of the play. They also happen to be among Calias's finest

account of Tosca's Vissi d'arte

feeling and diction. They end the play too. No texturof the: arias are given. She would not

Hilary Finch BOULEZ, STRAVINSKY ETC Eduard Brunner-

£15.49

far between, their designs a

her final words to the Juilliard, and highly imaginative 70minute recital: its title, Dal niente is taken from a piece Lachenmann in which breath turns to sound and back again in a mesmerising 15 minutes of virtuoso vanishing tricks. Stravinsky's Three Pieces lead to the tiny five measures he wrote to Picasso on a greetings telegram. Then Boulez's Domaines of 1925 in which six. teasing sketches are answered by six "miroirsz": the soloist can vary sequence and dynamics at will. Brunner separates the pieces widely, exaggerating the role of chance. It's also well worth seeking out violinist Michelle Makarski's disc, Caoine (ECM 1587 449 957-2) in which the eponymous Cettic lament or "keen" is turned and turned about by American composer Stephen Hartke in the revealing company of a Baroque Passacaglia by Biber, a Chaconne by Reger, and more

# Not such a pretty picture

#### NEW ON VIDEO

■ SURVIVING PICASSO

صكدا من الاحل

Warner, 15, 1996 ANTHONY HOPKINS looks more like Picasso than you might expect, but we never meet the towering artist of the 20th century. This is a film about Picasso the egotist, the womaniser and boor, seen through his years with Françoise Gilot (played by screen newcomer Natascha McElhone) James Ivory's direction is more animated than usual. But the sheer nastiness of the central character wreaks havoc; you want to escape this man's company. Available to rent.

#### THE CURSE OF FRANKEN-STEIN

Warner Terror Vision, 15, 1957 JUST when British cinema was ready to die of anaemia, along came Hammer with human organs gleaming brightly, blood smeared around like tomato sauce, and Christopher Lee staggering about in bandages. Critics talked about "disgusting charnelry", though Terence Fisher's movie, the first in Hammer's cycle, looks fairly timid today. Peter Cushing is on good form as the Baron who is, in his wife's innocent words, "locked in his old laboratory for hours on end".

IN A YEAR OF 13 MOONS Connoisseur, 18, 1978

INSPIRED by the suicide Fassbinder's ex-lover, this extraordinary film follows the fortunes of Erwin (Volker Spengler), who becomes Elvira after a sex-change operation, but finds fulfilment in neither gender. Fassbinder marshals the techniques of vintage Hollywood melodramas only to aim them at the feelings and places that Hollywood ignored. This is a world of cold, unfriendly urban corners, of garish bars and empty



Anthony Hopkins as Picasso in a film focusing on the egotism and sheer nastiness of the central character

ous, often unsettling, and surprisingly

business offices; a film darkly humor-

THE ISLAND OF DR MOREAU Entertainment, 12. 1996 WHAT other film offers the sight of Marion Brando caked in make-up,

waving limply, and carried aloft through a crowd of half-human beasts on what looks like a customised Popernobile? When Brando's crazed doctor is on parade, you can enjoy this

the film becomes far more nasty than silly. The director is John Frankenheimer. Available to rent.

camp entertainment. Once he's absent.

THROUGH THE OLIVE-TREES Artificial Eye, 1995, U FEW contemporary film-makers

achieve more with less than the Iranian Abbas Kiarostami, He saves any intricacies for the script: this one plays with the boundaries of cinema.

adaptation of H.G. Wells's tale as a and reality. But the camera keeps quiet, observing rural people playing in a film set in an area devastated by the 1990 earthquake. A bricklayer is cast as the husband of a girl whose grandmother, in real life, had refused. his offer of marriage. During repeated takes, he woos the lady once more. Love never dies; nor, despite earthquakes, does the Iranian spirit. Touching and uplifting.

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Barry Millington

STENHAMMAR Symptony No 2: Excelsior: Royal Scottish Nation National Orchestra/Sundkvist Naxos 8.553888\*\*\* £4.99 THE Swedish composer Wilhelm Stenhammar (1871-1927) once told Carl Nielsen that what he admired about the latter's work was its "Nordic chastity", which he found

bracing in "these sensually voluptuous times". If that makes Stenhammar sound ascetic, his music proclaims the opposite. His Second Symphony is easy-going, lyrical in melodic invention and only just short of voluptuous in harmony. It does have characteristic Nordic features, however, notably in the folk-dance contours of the first movement and Scherzo.

but once again Naxos has come up with a very acceptable budget alternative.

OPERA John Higgins

Maria Callas

by her records, including those of her teaching at the Juilliard in 1971 and 1972.

recordings. The inclusion of an early

is an irrelevance. But admir-

have liked that. 

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Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Another, Ex parte

THE CONTRACTOR

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The state of the s ampilatio .

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Liudgment April-30]

In deciding whether a third country was safe for the purposes of section 2 of the Asylum and immigration Act 1996, the Home Secretary had to satisfy himself that there was no real risk that that country would send an asylum scaker to another country otherinternational obligations.

Despite the concerns of special adjudicators as to whether asylum seekers in France received a proper cators as to whether asylum artunity to have their claims ranged in accordance with ch law the Home Secretary was entified in conclude that France was a country to which he could authorise an asylum seeker a removal under the 1996 Act.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Gulay Caribolat against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Bingham) of Combill, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Moses) on February 14 (The Times February 24) to dismiss his application for judicial review of the decisions of

(i) The Home Secretary Issuing a certificate under section 2 of the 1996 Act authorising her removal France as a third safe country for investigation of her claim for asylum under the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) (Cmd 9171) and (1967) (Cmnd 3906) and

(ii) The immigration officer refusing her leave to enter and removing her from the United Kingdom to France.
The applicant, a Turkish citizen

of Kurdish origin, arrived from Starion on August 31, 1996 claim- did not protect his rights, then the

ber i, the Home Secretary issued a certificate under section 2 of the 1996 Act authorising her removal

Section 2(1)(a) of the 1996 Act enabled the Home Secretary to direct the removal of an asylum applicant if he had certified that, in his opinion, the conditions in section 2(2) were fulfilled.

Section 2 provides: (2) The conditions are — (a) that the person is not a national or citizen of the country ... to which he is to be sent; (b) that his life and liberty would not be threatened in that country ... [for a Convention reason]; and (c) that the government of that country ... would not send him to another country ... otherwise than in accordance with

in (3) This subsection applies to any country ... which is or forms part of a member state jof the European Union).

Section 3 provides: "(2) A person who has been, or is to be, sent to a country to which section 2(3) above applies shall not be entitled to bring or pursue an appeal under this section so long as he is in the United Kingdom."

Mr Manjit Gill and Mr Asoka Dias for the applicant: Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Mark Shaw for the Home Secretary.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the restriction on the right to appeal against the issue of a certificate under section 2(1) of the 1996 Act contained in section 3(2) could be one of

If in fact the country to which a prospective appellant had been or as to be sent was a country which fully protected his Convention rights, then the need to leave the United Kingdom prior to appealing was not significant as in those circumstances there was little purpose in appealing.

If on the other hand that country value of the right of appeal exercisable only from abroad in practice was likely to be highly speculative since such a country could well remove him from their territory before he had time to exercise his right of appeal to a special adjudicator in this country.

It was because of that restriction on the right of appeal that it was appropriate to challenge by way of judicial review the grant of a certificate of the secretary of state without first exhausting the process of appeal under section 3. Prior, to the 1996 Act, special adjudicators when determining

appeals had indicated that they were not satisfied that France could be treated as a safe country. The adjutticators had not been concerned about French substantive law. That did protect asylum seekers in accordance with

the Convention. Their concern was as to the danger that when an asylum seeker was returned to France the asylum seeker would not be given an opportunity to have his position determined in accordance with French law as the Convention required prior to his

being deported from France.

Special adjudicators in the course of their work acquired considerable experience of what bappened in practice in different countries and as special adjudicators had come to the conclusion that the secretary of state was under an obligation to satisfy were, in his opinion, wrong or that since they had reached their decisions the position had changed. for the better in France.

respective roles of the secretary of te and the courts now that the 1996 Act was in force. It was convenient to start with what an applicant for asylum would be required to establish if the secmerits of an application for

In R v Secretary of State for the

Home Department, Ex parte Parliament could have intended Sivakumaran (1988) AC 958, 994) Lord Keith of Kinkel had said: There has to be demonstrated a that he will be persecuted for a Convention reason if returned to

his own country." Basing himself upon that statement. Mr Pannick had submitted that the secretary of state was entitled to ask himself whether, in his opinion, there was a reasonable degree of likelihood that France would send the applicant to Turkey otherwise than in ac-cordance with the Convention. The Divisional Court appeared to have

Their Lordships did not accept Mr Pannick's adoption of a reason-able degree of likelihood test. That submission involved a lower threshold than that laid down by

the Act. Section 2 required the secretary of state to certify that the con-ditions in section 2(2) were fulfilled. The condition which was in issue The continuou which was it issue was "that the government of [France] would not send [her] to another country . . . other than in accordance with the Convention".

The language of the condition was unqualified. That was the stanulory test. It was a test imposed as a requirement of overriding the protection against removal pending determination of an asylum claim which would otherwise be provided by section 6 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993. Clearly it was necessary to treat

the test as not being totally unqualified, it must be subject to the implication that it was permissible to grant a certificate when there existed a system which would, if it operated as it usually did, provide the required standard of protection for the asylum seeker.
No country could provide a
system which was 100 per cent
effective. There were going to be aberrations. All that could be

should be in place prior to the grant of a certificate was a system which could be expected not to contravene the Convention. What was required was that

there should be no real risk that the asylum seeker would be sent to another country otherwise than in accordance with the Convention. The unpredictability of human behaviour or the ternote possibility of changes in administrative law or procedures which there was no reason to anticipate would not be a

Mr Pannick had submitted that it was abourd to have one standard to be applied where the Convention was to be applied in this country and another test where the Convention was to be applied in

another country.

However, their Lordships did not agree. In Swakumaran the reasonable degree of likelihood test was laid down as an objective standard which an applicant for asylum status had to demonstrate in order to obtain protection.

If the complaint as to a safe country was as to the test it applied in determining whether there was a breach of the Convention, no criticism could properly be made of that country if it applied the same test as the UK applied in determining whether the asylum seeker had the necessary well founded fear.

However, where the criticism of the safe country was that the procedures were such that in practice there was a real risk that opportunity to demonstrate that there was a reasonable degree of likelihood that he would be persecuted if he was returned by the supposedly safe country then that was a different matter. The reasonable degree of likeli-hood test was laid down so as not

which was not absolute. Their Lordships did not see any reason for applying the same standard where what was at issue was thether an asylum seeker should be entitled to exercise his rights of appeal in this country or from a third country to which he was to be

ಗಣಗಾಗಿ ಆರೆ. While in the majority of cases both tests might well lead to the same result that did not justify applying the wrong standard in the minority of cases where it would lead to the wrong result.

It was not suggested that the secretary of state had actually applied the wrong test as a matter of law. The identification of the right test was, however, necessary when considering whether the decision of the secretary of state was one to which he had been entitled to come on the material before him.

It was for the secretary of state to evaluate the material. If the sec-retary of state could properly come to the decision which he did on that material then the court could not

He was the person who had to form the opinion. However, in order to form the opinion, it was necessary for him to take such steps as were reasonable in the distantistances to acquaint himself with the relevant lacts.

Their Lordships bore in mind Mr Gill's submission as to the inequality of the position of the asylum seeker as compared with that of the secretary of state. It was egraordinarily difficult for someone in the position of the applicant to show the secretary of state could not properly form the opinion that he stated that he did.

Indeed it would be impossible for the asylum seeker even to attempt to do so were it not for the commendable efforts which had been made by the Refugee Legal Centre to protect the position of asylum seekers. Despite very limjustification, pointed out it would not be unduly burdensome on the secretary of state to take more steps than he did at present to monitor what happened to asylum seekers who were returned to France. As against that the evidence

made it clear that the secretary of state did cause inquiries to be

The secretary of state based his opinion primarily upon: I France's commitment to a number of international conventions and agreements applying to asylum seekers: 2 An assessment of French laws

and procedures;
3 Information from the director of Direction des Libertes Publiques des Affaires Juridiques and from the British liaison officer in Direcl'Immigration et de la Lutte Contre l'Emploi des Cladestins as to the implementation of French laws 4 A lack of evidence contradicting the secretary of state's opinion,

As to French domestic law, Mr.

Gill made no complaint. If the law properly operated, then an application for asytum by an applicant returned by this country to France should be appropriately considered by the Office Francais Aparrides (OFPRA). If OFPRA became properly select of an application then it was accepted that there was no real risk of a contravention of the Convention.

What was criticised was the

practice adopted by French officials within the prefecture. The effect of the complaints was that there had been a persistent history of officials ignoring requests for asylum and seeking to remove com-plainants on the basis of a failure to claim asylum when the applicant was previously in France. The other matter was what happened to Mr Ali Iqbal. After London the secretary of state

foundation on the basis that France was a safe third country.

When he returned to France after his appeal had been dismissed officials at the Paris prefecture acted contrary to proper procedures so that his claim for asylum was ignored. Orders for removal were served, apparently in the absence of an in and attempts were made forcibly to place him in an aeroplane.

The only reason that he was not removed was that the captain of the plane refused to take responsibility for him so that his case received press publicity and he ume eighe equently allowed to claim

asylum in France. That was obviously a serious departure from proper standards it had to be seen in the context of France having to deal with more than 20,000 asylum applications in each of the last 10 years. Further more, account had to be taken of the fact that the proportion of successful applications was higher in France than in any other

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Their Lordships had carefully considered all the material which had been placed before them and understood on the basis of that material the concerns of the special

adjudicators. However, their Lordships would the decisions of the special adjudicators and the responsibilities of the court. The special adjudicators on an appeal considered the material which was before them and merits. The court's role was limited

Approaching the question as one of review, their Lordships could not say that the secretary of state had not been entitled to come to the

Having considered and rejected further grounds raised the court Solicitors: Bluett & Co. Edmonton: Treasury Solicitor.

## Purpose of disqualifying directors

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v. Tjolle and

Before Mr Justice Jacob

Dudgment May 2 The Secretary of State for Trade. and industry should consider whether the public interest was served by pressing on with an application for the disqualification. of a company director when the period of disqualification was likely to be low and the case had been significantly delayed through no fault of the respondent.

Any public interest involved in a

disqualification might be out-weighed by the de facto dis-qualification which was often the the legal costs involved in going period of disqualification under through with the procedure.

Mr Justice Jacob sitting in the Chancery Division so stated when dismissing the secretary of state's application for an order under section 6 of the Company Direcagainst the third respondent. Di-ana Kenning. The first and second respondents to the application were Valere Nikolas Frederick Tjolle and Thereia Evelyn

Mr Stephen Davies for the secretary of state; Mrs Kenning in

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that Land Travel Ltd, a hobiday company, went into voluntary liqui-dation in July 1992 with an estimated deficiency in respect of unsecured creditors of £12.4 million including £5.6 million of lost deposits paid by members of the public for future holidays.

The Fraud Squad seized the company's records. Mr Tjolle owned 999 and Mrs moti owned one of the 1,000 issued shares in the company's holding company. Following the appointment of liquidators and the bankrupicy of Mr. Tjolie, he pleaded guilty to fraudulent trading and was sentenced to mine months imprisonment and disqualified from being a company

director for 10 years. The secretary of state was of the merited the maximum pos

highly desirable that criminal cours should be aware of the sentencing quidelines laid down by the Court of Appeal in in re-Sevenoaks Stationers (Retail) Ltd.

Civil and criminal courts should apply the same standards. The purpose of disqualification, to prolect the public from the activities of those unfit to be concerned in company management, was the

The period of disqualification was perhaps not always seen as of major concern in a criminal rulal where the defendant was also likely to be imprisoned. None the less it was important in the authorized in the continuous section. less it was important in the public interest.

It might also be important in the defendant's interests to see that he

The secretary of state rightly felt that in the public interest he should seek a longer period. Mr Tjolle consented to 15 years disqualifica-

secretary of state launched the current proceedings against the were stayed, without Mrs Kenning's knowledge or consent.

After a pre-trial review and certain other preliminaries a trial date was set but when it became apparent the Mrs McDermott could not attend on that date secarate trials were ordered.

state that the procedural position was fundamentally unsatisfactory and that it was unlikely that the court would ever get at the truth with a split trial, the major consequence of which was that the not be used against the other.

His Lordship did not agree. It was up to the secretary of state to make his case against any particu-lar respondent. It was essentially respondents in a case were nor-mally tried together, and it was emirely possible that one or more

the case. The charges against Mrs Kenning had to be considered nearly five years after the company's demise and involved events as lar

back as 1990. The delay could not in any way be laid at Mrs Kenning's door and in all the circumstances it was difficult to see what real public interest had been served by the

case proceeding. His Lordship thought that in some cases the secretary of state would do well to consider whether the public interest was really by pressing on with cases which for some reason really no longer had a point.

The essential purpose of a disqualification order was to protect the public. Its incidental effects, particularly what was likely to be a heavy costs order, probably much higher than any fine in a criminal court, the stigma of an order, and terrent effect on others, were

not the purposes of the legislation. Moreover, proceedings under section 6 of the Act had to be commenced within two years of the company insolvency, except with leave of court. There was a clear statutory intention that the cases were taken to a conclusion quickly. It was hardly in accordance with that intention that, after they had been commenced they should be stayed against an individual who had not consented to that stay.

Having considered the charges againsMrs Kenning his Lordship said that even if she was to be regarded as a director of the company he was wholly un-satisfied that she conducted herself in a manner which made her unfit ment of a company. Solicitor: Osborne Clarke.

and renewal, or the consequences

of acceptance of the package

including applications by Lloyd's

for judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court ought

as the Colfor and Phillips proceed-

ings. He said provided such other

proceedings were commenced by

May 16 the court would facilitate

their being heard at the same time

as the Colfox and Phillips proceed-

His Lordship directed provision-ally that during the week of June 9

any further summonses relating to

the conduct of further proceedings should be heard by the court and

sure that all matters between all

### Power is exercisable retrospectively Davy International Ltd and

Others v Tazzyman and Same v Durnig and Others Before Lord Justice Leggatt. Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice

Dudgment May 1 The power conferred on the High Court by Order 45, rule 7(7) of the

Rules of the Supreme Court to dispense with service of a copy of an order under the rule if it thought it just to do so, was exercisable in respect of a mandatory order after the occurrence of events alleged to constitute a breach of that order, that is,

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing the appeal of the fourth defendant, VAI industries (UK) Ltd and the first respondent. Herbert Durnig, from the judg-ment of Mr Justice May on March 10 when, inter alia, he dismissed their applications to strike out the notice of motion of the plaintiffs.

in Austria, was false in certain Davy International Ltd. Davy Corporation Ltd and Trafeleur House Services Ltd. which sought. refused to strike out. inter alia, orders for sequestration of the assets of VAI and the first The main point at issue was

Mr Alan Boyle, QC and Mr Paul Goulding for VAI and the first respondent: Mr Mark Cran, QC, Mr Alistair McGregor, QC and Mr Nigel Porter for Davy. LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that Davy was granted in May 1996 an Anton Piller, search

respondent's committel to prison.

and seize, order in respect of VAI's affice premises in Poole, Dorset. requiring VAI to hand over listed documents, and parts prohibitory requiring it not to destroy certain The order dld not have on its

Order 45, rule 7(4). Davy alleged, inter alia, that documents were removed or destroyed, and that the affidavit sworn by the first respondent, a director of VAI and resident

respects. They then issued their notice of motion which the judge

whether the court's power of dispensation of service, under Order 45, rule 7(7), was exercisable retrospectively or, as Mr Boyle contended, only prospectively, that limited for compliance with the particular order, the court being bound by Lewis v Lewis ([1991] ] (unreported, May 9, 1991).

Mr Cran submitted the rule permitted retrospective as well as ospective dispensation, the court ng bound by two earlier Court of Appeal decisions Turner v Turner ((1978) 122 Soi J 696) and Hill Samuel & Co Ltd v Littaur

(The Times April 13, 1985).
His Lordship said that the wording of rule ?(7) was general. That pointed to the court's power not being confined in its operation

If it were not to be so construed. the court would be unable to deal with a party which was not served with the order during the period for compliance deliberately refusing to comply with an order made in its presence.

After considering the cases, his Lordship said that the Turner and Hill Samuel cases were binding on the court as establishing that rule 7(7) was not restricted to a prospecrive operation. It was established that the court was entitled to choose between conflicting Those were the initial decisions

and bound the later cases; they and, if they had been, the courts would have been bound to reach d with the proc tion of rule 7(7) in its context. Lord Justice Phillips and Lord

Justice Leggan agreed. Solicitors: Travers Smith Braithwalie: Linklaters & Paines.

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THE STOCK COMPANIES ON 18 April 1997.
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THE HIGH COURT OF DESTINATION CONSTRUCTION OF DESTINATION CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LIBERTY CASES AND IN THE MATTER OF THE CO., situated at 30 Engineers (Chancery Division) dested 9 April 1997 continuing of the above named company of the reduction of the share complete of the above named company in the reduction of the share complete of the above named company in the reduction of the share complete of the above named company in the reduction of the share complete of the above named of the share of

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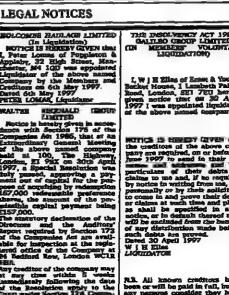
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the inspector which would assist him in determining the circumstances and causes of the accident should write to the the date of publication of this Notice. Marine Accident Investigation Branch Department of Transport 5/7 Brunswick Place, Southampt

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appropriate period. If he was under-disqualified he might find himself, like Mr Tjolle, on the receiving end of a civil application by the secretary of state for which, if he lost, he would have to pay

tion and paid agreed costs. In July 1994 while criminal proceedings were still pending the

untii Anrii 1995.

Only Mrs Kenning, an emcerned in the trial before his Lordship. The case against her was based on the allegation that she was a de facto director. It was said for the secretary of

evidence of one respondent could

## Warning for Lloyd's names

Phillips v Society of Lloyd's In the interests of case management, Lloyd's names in dispute over acceptance of its reconstruc-tion and renewal package should commence proceedings no later than May 10 to enable them to participate in Society of Lloyd's v Colfox and Others in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division (1997 Folio 131) and Phillips v Society of Lloyd's which were due to come before the court in the

second half of June. . Mr. Justice Colman so indicated in the Commercial Court on April 18 ordering that proceedings brought against Lloyd's by Timothy David Phillips be heard simultaneously with Lloyd's v

HIS LORDSHIP said any other proceedings arising out of disputes between Llove's and other names not covered by those proceedings

Sharpe v Southend Health

Although an expert witness in a

medical negligence case might have acted differently from a medical practitioner, he should

make it clear whether the defen-

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reserved judgment in the Queen's reserved judgment in the Queen's reserved judgment in the Queen's reserved judgment in the dismissing the claim of Tyrone Sharpe for negligence against the first defendant, Southend Health

Authority, who were responsible

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> London, was withdrawn in the closing speech of the plaintiff's HIS LORDSHIP said that a court might prefer one body of opinion to another but that was no basis for a finding of negligence. He added that an expert witness

Bloomsbury and Islington Health

Authority, who were responsible for University College Hospital,

should make it clear in his or her report, if it were the case, that although the expert would have adopted a different approach or practice, that he or she accepted that the approach or practice adopted by the defendant was in accordance with the approach or practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of practitioners skilled in the relevant field.

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catering and housekeeping

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# **EDUCATION**



Labour's new education and employment team, left to right: Michael Bichard, Peter Shaw, Kim Howells, Estelle Morris, John Hedger, Stephen Byers, Alan Howarth, David Blunkett, Michael Barber, Andrew Smith, Baroness Blackstone, Roger Dawe and Nick Stuart

# Labour's balancing act

John O'Leary examines the challenges facing

the new team at the education department

But they will know that there

very school in Eng-land, state and independent, will receive a letter from David Blunkett next week, exhorting them to greater efforts to raise standards. The new Education Secretary will targe teachers to "set aside understandable scepticism" and join in a drive

for improvement; The initiative is intended to herald a new relationship with . the teaching profession, where morale is at a low ebb. Thousands are leaving every if they could afford it, and good graduates to take their

place are thin on the ground.

After the tough talk and bright ideas of Opposition, Mr ing to close those Blunkett is conscious that many in concation see Labout as almost as prone to teacherbashing as the Tories. He will need their help if Tony Blair's the two approachaims to create a world-class: service are to be realised.

The letter which is not being released in its entirety a beforehand so that head teachers and governors get the message first, will say. "My intention is that we shall always consult and we shall be setting up machinery to take the views and respond to the suggestions of all those who feel that they have something positive to offer, rather than

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the department." Mr Blunkett adds: "We are not interested in dogma. Instead, we are committed to what works. We are interested in standards, not structure. We want to level up because we know that every school is doing something well and all four-year-olds who present-

many are doing very wellindeed. Our task is to ensure that what has been available to some is available to all."

always

consult'

But the conciliatory toric is hard to square with the promise of zero tolerance of underperformance. On the same afternoon that Mr. Blunkerrs letter was being outlined. Stephen Byers, the . of four-year-olds who have term, many more would do so Minister for School Standards, was turning

> the spathight back on to falling schools, threatenthat did not

sees no conflict in es: competent teachers have nothing to fear. But the balancing act is one of several that will have to be

months. Labour's manifesto was short on detail in a number of delicate areas, some of which will require urgent attention. What exactly will happen to grant-main-tained schools, for example? simply inviting submissions to. How will the Government respond to the Dearing review of higher education?

Perhaps the most urgent questions concern pre-school education, where the Government has pledged to issue no more nursery vouchers but has guaranteed continuity for

ly have them. With thousands more children turning four by the start of the next school vear, there is little time to devise a replacement system.

Mr Byers called for a report on the problem even before making his statement on failing schools. It will be too late to rescue the tens of thousands been crammed into unsuitable primary school re-

ception classes, but he cannot afford to ignore the playintention groups and private which will have an important part to play in delivering Labour's promise of universal nursery provision in 18 months' time.

For all its incone-

rience in government, the new carried off in the coming ministerial team has an almost unprecedented track record in its field. All five education ministers have taught, either in schools or higher education. Two have run education authorities and one a university college. Al-though now specialising in employment, Alan Howarth even finds himself back in the office he occupied as Higher Education Minister.

The presence of so many familiar faces will reassure some of those in education who felt that Labour's programme promised too little. There is plenty of unfinished business on target-setting, the curriculum, testing and assessment which can occupy the new team, who will soon be busy drafting the June White Paper and with the even more time-consuming task of pushing through legislation.

There is plenty of scope for disagreement, meanwhile, if next week's appeal fails to convince teachers. The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers has given a warning that its support does not extend to increasing a workload that it already finds unreasonable. Other groups are willing to give Labour the benefit of the doubt, but will expect Tony Blair's rhetoric about education, education and education to bear fruit Phil Revell on advice to schools about coping with asthma

When

children

cannot

breathe

Val Harrison and her daughter Jade

AS A child, Val Harrison went to school for half a day a week, if she was well enough. She did not attend school full-time until the age of II. She spent frequent spells in hospital and came close to death on several occasions. And the disease which had this devastating effect?

Asthma. The Greeks recognised the condition 2,000 years ago, naming it "the panting attack", It is one of the most common allments, with more than three million sufferers in Britain. In schools, the average class will have two or three cases, one in seven children of school age are diagnosed as having asthma.

About 1,600 people died of the condition in 1994. Most of these are adult deaths, but more than 150 children are admitted to hospital each day with asthmarelated problems.

rompted the National Asthma Campaign to raise awareness in schools of asthma and related problems. At a conference yesterday in Stoke-on-Trent, speakers from a range of disciplines addressed the kind of issues that schools need to consider. On the agenda were new Department for Education and Employment guidelines. If followed by schools, they should reduce the stress for children with asthma-related complaints.

Pauline Eldridge, a parent, feels that guidelines are overdue. Her two children, Tony and Alex, have asthma that is easily managed by inhalers. The problem comes at school where teachers have held the inhalers centrally. "There have been several occasions when Terry needed his inhaler in class and the teacher has said that he had to wait." Mrs Eldridge believes children should carry their inhalers; the new advice now states: "Children must have immediate access to their inhalers when they need them."

The situation arises from a lack of awareness and from teachers' reluctance to become involved in duties for which they have no training. Many worry about the legal position should anything go wrong.

At the conference these concerns were addressed by Chris Doak, a health and safety officer with Devon County Council. His county has developed a policy based on the campaign's framework and the DEE guidelines. Mr Doak feels that this anxiety is misplaced and that teachers have an important role to play in making life easier and sunpler ior the asthma sufferer.

"Teachers need to be reassured that if they child has an attack."

are operating under clear guidance and advice they have the protection of the law. There needs to be a clear statement from the employer," Mr Doak says.

There have been no eases where professionais in loco parentis have been sued successfully as a result of first aid or basic medical care given in good faith, but there have been cases where teachers have been taken to

court for failing to act. Paul Hanbury, the headteacher at Brookhouse Green Primary in Stoke-on-Trent, says that the approach schools need to adopt is very simple". His own sufferers and a friend lost a child to asthma. He believes that schools have a responchild in a holistic way, I am as interested in their physical wellbeing as I am in their ment. The two are relat-

unexpected tipe for it.

t (BBC)

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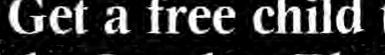
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ed." Mr Hanbury believes that the curriculum should include more time on health matters. "What's more basic than learning how to handle your own health?" he says. Mr Hanbury's school has an asthma register. Children are encouraged to carry their inhalers and spares are kept within reach. The inhalers follow the children on to the playing fields and are taken on trips.

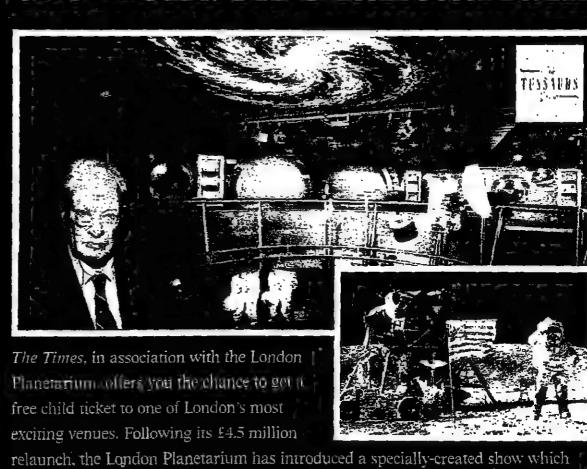
THIS approach was commended by Bob Wilson, a consultant and asthma specialist hased at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in Shropshire. The child's inhaler needs to be immediately available, "less than one minute away". Mr Wilson believes that asthma deaths are "almost wholly preventable", and that very simple training would enable teachers to deal with attacks with confidence.

He has little patience with "alternative" approaches. A view shared by Ms Harrison who, as a child, was prescribed "a regime of exercise, heat ray treatment, swimming and playing a wind instrument". Her asthma settled down in her teens about the same time as the first broncho-dilators became available. Her condition worsened again after the birth of her children. Her eldest daughter, Jade, developed asthma "despite all I could do to prevent it by breast feeding. monitoring of her diet and so on." Val gave Jade responsibility for her inhaler as soon as possible and she feels that most primary age children could cope with the responsibility. She says: Teachers with asthmatics in their



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CHANGING TIMES

# Am I for the scrapheap?

A lecturer reveals how research rankings have threatened his job

n the next few weeks my university will vote on a plan to restructure academic departments. This is the direct result of December's

Initially, it was thought that we had done rather well. There was great rejoicing. The vice-chancellor sent out an official memo congranulating staff on their performance. Unfortunately, our competi-tors had done even better. Less than a month later, when the Government issued the financial allocations, it became clear that the university was

heading for a massive deficit. The administration decided that more than 40 academic posts must be lost. Just before the spring holiday, a draft for restructuring was issued. Whole departments were to disappear. Panic ensued. Ashen-faced dons clustered in corridors; e-mails proposing rescue schemes circulated; the Association of University Teachers issued warnings

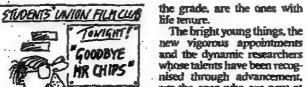
about strike action. University officials emphasised that the draft plan was not a final statement and that modifications would be considered. Nonetheless, speed was of the essence. The administration says that it wishes to meet its target only through voluntary redundancies, but it has not ruled out compulsion should it prove necessary. Academics are notoriously

bad at changing careers. Who would want a 50-year-old classicist who is the greatest living expert on Plato's use of the article? The spectre of computresearch assessment exercise. sory redundancy has haunted us all. Who would be the unlucky ones? Would it be those on short-term contracts? We all wished it would be

someone other than ourselves. Yet, from a legal point of view there is a simple answer. Since its foundation, my university has granted staff life tenure. This was to ensure complete academic freedom. No one could be dismissed for having the "wrong" opinions. The conditions of service are

explicit: the tenure for all academics is to extend to the age of retirement. All those appointed to permanent positions who have passed the required probationary period are entitled to remain in the post until the age of 67. according to the original university statutes.

This does not mean, however, that all academics are safe. In 1987, Parliament passed a law that allows for tenure to be withdrawn from all individuals appointed to university posts after November 1987, or from those who have had a change in contract from that date. This, in effect, meant those who were promoted to a higher grade. Thus, everyone who moved up from lecturer level to senior lecturer



are the ones who are now at The administration has not taken steps to inform academics of their legal rights; after all, it is not in its interest to do so. New appointments and promoted staff want to conceal the facts in the hope that they will be safe and the AUT is committed to protecting the

jobs of all academic staff

regardless of their contractual

in the end, however, my

university will be compelled to

recognise this distinction. Staff

is little Mr Blunkett can do in

the short term about the

funding pressures on schools,

colleges and universities. The

Conservative spending plans

adopted by Gordon Brown

allow for a worsening squeeze,

with only infant schools antici-

pating an early boost from the

dampen expectations by warning of a £69 million "black hole" in the budget for further

education colleges, which he

wants to play a key role in the

welfare to work programme.

the gap, but other areas of the

education budget will have to

wait for Labour to fulfil its

longer-term promise to devote

a larger share of public

University lecturers and vice-chancellors have already

staked their claim, but only Sir

Ron Dearing's report, due out in July, can provide the am-munition they need to alter the

Government's spending prior-

ities. The review will provide

the first test of policy-making beyond the manifesto, with

rough decisions ahead on the

size of the higher education

system and the requirement

for graduates to pay more

The schools lobby will not

be far behind in demanding

more money, but Mr Blunkett

will want to concentrate on

measures that can be imple-

memed without extra funding.

towards their education.

spending.

ine windiali tax should

Mr Blunkett has tried to

abolition of assisted places.

or beyond would lose tenure, so long as they were being paid more as a result. After this law was passed,

E-

an official governmental commission was instructed to change the royal charters of all universities. The rules of redundancy were altered, enabling universities to remove non-tenured staff from those departments which were being closed for financial

his means that there are ..now two classes of academic those who have retained life tenure because

they were appointed before November 1987 and have had remaining lifetime salary. No institution can face the risk of such a bill. no change in contract since. and those appointed or promoted after that date. The acute observer will realise that, in some cases, those

who are elderly and who were

promoted before 1987, as well

as those who failed to make

on short-term contracts cost nothing to dismiss. The dons who can be made redundant are entitled to receive only one week's salary for every year that they have been employed in the system. But it could cripple any university to make staff with life tenure redundant. There is the possibility that someone aged 50, who is earning about £28,000 a year, could cost as much as £500,000 to remove because technically they are owed their

in the end, tenure will protect those who were fortunate enough to obtain it, despite the wish of the administration to dismiss those whom it no longer wants to

receive

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FOOTBALL

# Leicester benefit from O'Neill's singular approach

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MATT ELLIOTT, the scorer of the goal that ensured Leicester City's survival in the FA Carling Premiership, has identified the unorthodox management style of Martin O'Neill as one of the principal reasons for the club's success in confounding pre-season expectations.

Ellion, signed from Oxford United in January, finally ended lingering relegation fears around Filbert Street with the winning goal against Sheffield Wednesday on Wednesday night.

It completed a memorable season for the East Midlands club, which had been widely tipped to make an instant return to the Nationwide League first division - just as it had in 1994 95.

Elliott was ineligible for the Coca-Cols Cup final victory over Middlesbrough, but played a prominent part in the Premiership campaign and praised the innovative work of

"He works exceptionally hard and his enthusiasm for

DWINDLING crowds at re-

cent finals have put the pres-

sure on Whitby Town and

North Ferriby United to pro-

duce a memorable FA Carlsberg Vase contest at

Harry Dunn, the manager

of the Whitby side that has

swept to the Federation Brew-

ery Northern League champ-

ionship, with 99 points and

130 goals from their 38 match-

es, said: "There has been talk

of taking the final away from

Wembley, so it's up to both

teams to show we're good

and played some good foot-

ball, so we're going to go out

there to play our game, not

seek to stifle them or anything

like that. I'm sure they'll do the

same and I think it'll produce

its football followers leave for

Landon is the one on which

the world is descending on the

Yorkshire port to see the

replica of Endeavour, Captain

By coincidence, the weekend

We've had a fine season

enough to be there.

a good final."

Wembley tomorrow.

Whitby promise show

of colour in Vase final

By Walter Gammie

the game is second to none," he said. "He's been there, seen it and done a lot. You listen to what he has to say. He's got a certain style of management which is different to what I've seen before.

"He is a bit unorthodox. He plays a few mind games with you here and there. He is very clever - probably a bit too clever for the players. But all round you can't say anything about him.

"All the lads would like his future to be resolved and personally I think it will be. I hope he stays and the club will be desperate to keep him if they can. I am sure that other clubs would be interested in him as well if he became

"Everyone in the area has got great respect for him as have everyone at the club. He deserves it because he's done such a great job here and he hasn't finished it yet."

O'Neill himself said that the widespread expectation of immediate relegation had acted

James Cook's ship, set off on

its commemorative voyage.

"Win or lose, rain or shine,

we'll have an open-top bus ride on Sunday, when we expect 50,000 or 60,000 people

to be in the town." Dunn said.

trophy, it will be little surprise

Mark Tennison, formidable

firepower of their own. Floun-

ders will be seeking to collect a

second successive Wembley

winner's medal as he tries to

ensure that North Ferriby.

from Hull, keep the Vase in

Northern Counties East

League hands, after helping

Brigg Town to victory last year.

will be fit."

If Whitby do return with the

the long-serving Paul

and the players. The fact that we were written off by everybody kept us going," he said.

"No one gave us a chance, except for some paper in Bulgaria who said we would stay up. I am going to write to him and say thanks. I think he must be a very good tipster because he said that Manchester United would win the league championship and Bury the second division.

"It's going to be fantastic now to be able to go to Blackburn on Sunday for a final game. It doesn't feel right somehow. I will be able to relax for the first time. I am going to wear a suit and sit with the chairman in the directors' box. I am not saying that I won't go near the bench, but I certainly won't start

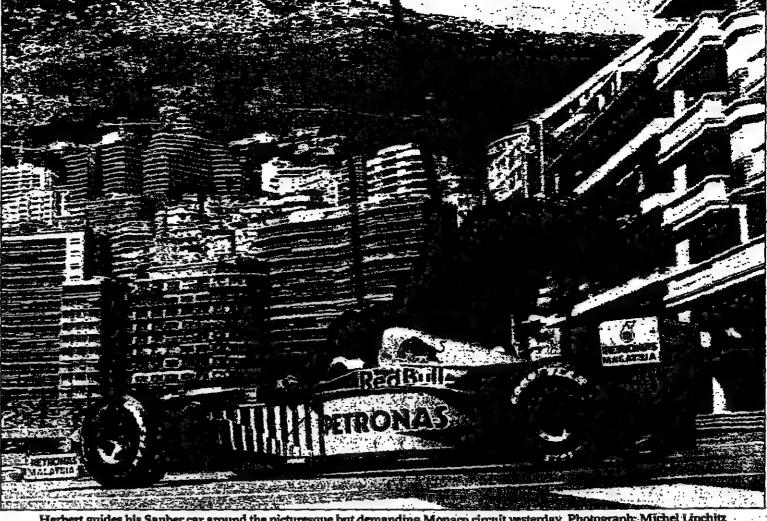
And, referring to the remark by Graeme Souness, his Southampton counterpart, that he should wear a suit rather than a tracksuit and calm down while on the bench he said: "I might just as well see if Graeme Souness is right.

The good thing is that we have stayed up on our own merit. This season has been a great experience and everyone has loved every minute of it, from our youngsters like Stu-art Campbell right through to our old warhorse Steve Claridge, who has enjoyed his

first year in the Premiership. We did go into the unknown. We were wondering how we were going to cope with the top flight, but eventually we have not only done well but I also think that we have been a credit to the Premiership without going over the top about things.

"Yakka" Pitman is among the "I would say it has been goalscorers. "He only got 54 this season — it was 60 last enjoyable hard work. Just to be in the Premiership with the year." Dunn said. "Mind you. players we have got has been he's been injured for the past very enjoyable — but the enjoyment now comes from two weeks. He tried to kick the Bedlington centre half's head the fact that we are staying up. The lads have been saying that they felt more tired this season and came off worse, but he trained on Tuesday and he with less games than last North Ferriby have, in Andy season because there is more Flounders, Darren France and pressure in the Premiership."

European football is the and Elliott said: The chance of playing in Europe has also been a long time coming. I've talked to the wife and friends and we've had a giggle over the fact I could be playing in the Uefa Cup but I want to make the most of the chance."



Herbert guides his Sanber car around the picturesque but demanding Monaco circuit yesterday. Photograph: Michel Lipchitz

## Monaco still streets ahead of rest

rom the Hotel de Paris in Monaco yesterday, guests who had paid £3,000 for three days and nights in Europe's smallest principality in-dulged in their annual addiction to moneyed madness. Down in the streets below their balconies, the fragrance of perfume became polluted by the furnes of high-octane petrol; the tranquility and the elegance of Monte Carlo were torn away by the shricks of Formula One engines producing 750 horse-power, which men attempted to drive at approaching 150mph around the lampposts and the kerbstones. Ludicrous, yet

مكذا من الاصل

thrilling in the same breath. Monaco's ruler, Prince Rainler, styles himself His Serene Highness. Serenity is out of the window while the Formula One circus is in town. After the first, unofficial practice session yesterday, an Englishman, Johnny Herbert, was fastest of the 22 entrants. He assumes little, this goodnatured, competitive man from Essex. He knows that tomorrow, when practice officially decides the grid positions, is the time to make his uber Petronas lead the field, for at Monaco, above all places, he who leads on the grid stands little chance

of being overtaken. You have to be here to appreciate the obsession of it all. Beneath buildings of cream and marvellously appealing architectural design, the roads, the harbour and the tunnel are ringed with steel, for their protection and that of the drivers. It will look a

Rob Hughes savours the unique atmosphere as Formula One motor racing rolls into Monte Carlo

picture on television, which is why the principality — with all its mon-eyed residents — needing tourism like anywhere eise, forfeits its lifestyle for this one week in May. The talk in every motor home is of adjustments to the cars. Damon Hill

gives the opinion that Monaco places such unique stresses on the machinery that it would be more practical to design entirely different cars simply for the event. Instead, every team, some spending £20 million per car per season, attempts to modify the aerodynamics, to do everything in its power to rebalance the cars and give them effective traction and down-

Yet the re-aligning of cars can be seen as secondary to the rebalancing and preparation of the humans who put their lives at risk over 78 laps of the circuit, two hours of high-speed racing, 136 unrelenting miles that test their reflexes, ability and powers of concentration to the hilt.

This year, the revving up of egos, the quest of man and machine, has quite palpably a divide between the men and the boys. Hill, seeking to justify himself on the circuit that established the reputation of his father, Graham, is 36. Gerhard Berger, the Austrian, is going on 38 and started grand-prix racing in 1984. when some of the boy racers he

are in their thirties. In addi-

tion to Edwards, there are two

other former members of the

Maiden crew - Jo Gooding,

of Great Britain, and Michele

Paret, of France - and two

former members of the Elle

Racing syndicate for the

Whitbread race - Vanessa

Dudley, from Sydney, and

Westmacott, from

competes against now were in short pants. There are five of them in their very early 20s, the youngest, at 20, being Ralf Schumacher, the image of his older brother, Michael.

None of them, yesterday, had occasion to visit the Princess Grace Hospital. Indeed, the only shunt was Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the winner of the previous grand prix at Imola, who simply pushed too hard and ran-out of road. Nothing injured but pride. Frentzen will be back in the Williams-Renault tomorrow and, hopefully, on Sunday.

appier than him, and more content than most was Herbert He raced around in Imin 21.188sec, more than two seconds faster than his qualifying time a year ago. Though there were nine cars, including a relieved Hill, within nine-tenths of a second of his time, Herbert had never before enjoyed a practice session faster than all competitors.

"I didn't realise until I was going up the hill what a nice lap it was." Herbert, 32, remarked. He is practising for his 101st grand prix and has known the nectar of victory at the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in 1995, but he kept his drive in perspective yesterday. "We had done. a lot of work in Barcelona last week,

getting the set-up spot on, and the cur has improved very much," he said.
"The trouble is, coming first on free practice doesn't mean anything. I'll have to do it on Saturday really to set myself up for the race."

Nevertheless, Jean Toot, the director of Ferrari, was quick to congratulate the Sauber team. Ferrari's own Michael Schumacher was second, a blink of an eye behind Herbert, but Ferrari have two special reasons to want to get this one right. Sunday is the fiftieth anniversary of Enzo Ferrari's invention of the mystical scarlet car and the last time Ferrari was king of the road at Monte Carlo was in 1981. Moreover, the emerging Sauber is powered by engines designed and manufactured at Maranello by Ferrari.
Hill has yet to finish a race in his

Arrows car this season and yester day, responding to the probing of journalists trying to propel him into another car next year, he insisted: "I am focused solely on Arrows this ties beyond this season, but what do you want me to do, contribute to the silly season? I enjoyed today, the satisfaction of driving the Arrows to its fullest, getting what I can out of the car. That is the challenge to a racing driver ... but I've certainly got an unwieldy beast this year."

And he smiled, the resigned smile of a man who is under threat of a onerace ban should he lose patience at the wheel again as he did at Imola. Man, and machine, need controlling.

CYCLING

## Yates back in the old routine

SEAN YATES, a time-trial stage winner in the 1988 Tour de France, just cannot stop racing, although he ended his 16-year career on the Continent last season (Peter Bryan writes). His impact on domestic trials this season has been an eye-opener - nine starts and nine victories, at the age of

Yates will bid for his first

national title since 1980, when he was an amateur, in the British ten-mile championship on Sunday at Barton-on-Humber, which will follow the women's title trial on a Norfolk race course on Saturday. The men's event had promised to be a cracker - until Graeme Obree's entry was refused because of its late arrival. However, although the Scot, the British recordholder at the distance with a time of 18min 27sec, will be

start in a field of 120.

SAILING: EXPERIENCED ALL-WOMAN CREW PREPARES FOR ATTEMPT ON CIRCUMNAVIGATION RECORD

## Edwards ready to take on the world

SALLING DORRESPONDENT

ONE of the best-funded projects in world sailing got under way in earnest yesterday with the formal renaming of ENZA New Zealand as Royal & SunAlliance and the presentation by Tracy Edwards of the core crew with which she will attempt to break the record for the fastest non-stop circumnavigation.

When the sponsor is one of the world's top ten general insurance companies and the project budget is £4.27 million. you can afford a bit of razzmatazz. Pete Goss performed the naming ceremony at Ocean Village in Southampton amid fireworks, champagne and piped operatic music. It was a high-profile launch

of a project that has every prospect of capturing the public imagination. Edwards will set off for New York in two days to prepare for an attempt on the transatlantic record for multihulls of just over 6½ days, held by Jet Services 5. absent, Rob Hayles, the defending champion, is compet-After that, Edwards will try ing and will be the last man to for the round-Britain and Iredays, set by Steve Fossett, of the United States, on the trimaran, Lakota. Then, in the new year, she will set off on her historic attempt to capture the Jules Verne Trophy for the fastest non-stop circumnavi-

The record is still held by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston and Sir Peter Blake, who got round on

ENZA in 74 days and 22 hours enced sailors, most of whom in 1994. However, the Frenchman, Olivier de Kersauson, on the 90ft trimaran, Sport-Elec, appears to be on the verge of bettering it by up to three days as he continues his way back up the Atlantic at the end of a averaged 362 miles a day.

oyage during which he has Edwards's multinational crew is made up of experi-



Edwards leads the celebrations at the launch of her Jules Verne Trophy bid

are Helena Darvelid, of Sweden, who crewed for Fossett on Lakota, Lisa Charles, an America's Cup sailor and the only American on board, and Emma Richards, from Scot-

land, the youngest at 22. Edwards is still looking for two more crew members, but believes that she has found the right balance in her main team. "We've got youth, strength, intelligence, common sense and calmness," she said. She dismissed her mainly male critics, who claim that an all-woman crew will be hucky to survive on the 92ft catamaran when the going gets tough.

"Men can continue to express scepticism about women's sailing." Edwards, the first to skipper an all-woman Whitbread entry, said. "We'll just have to carry on taking on harder projects to prove them wrong." Edwards knows that ENZA's record will be hard to beat, let alone an even faster time by de Kersauson, but she is convinced that she and her crew are capable of doing it.

## **Encouraging start for** British fightback

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE British team, which is desperate to regain self-esteem. after failing to get any medals at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year, moved some way towards that ambition yesterday. On the first day of the annual European championships in Ostend, three of the four women compentors reached the semi-finals, while another, Kate Howey, the 1992 Olympic middleweight bronze medal-winner, qualified for the repechage. One man, the bantamweight, Jamie Johnson, also got into the repe-

chage and so has a chance of finishing third. Colin McIver, the British team manger, said: "The girls were just excellent. They were really up for it. It was most pleasing. The men were less fortunate, but some still did

quite well." Joyce Heron, the tiny Scottish bantamweight, who won a bronze medal at the 1993 world championships, defeated Laura Moise, of Romania,

with a decisive knockdown with reversing their result in the 1996 European champion

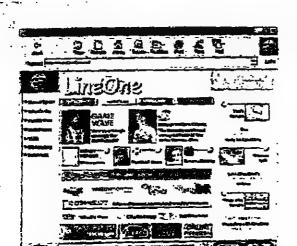
Chice Cowan, at light heavyweight, was responsible for one of the biggest upsets by also scoring a knockdown or Estha Essombe, a highly expe

rienced French competitor.

At heavyweight, Michell Rogers heat another French opponent, Celine Lebrum, and Maksymow, of Poland, who weighs in at 120kg, for a place

in the final. Howey, 23, who ha dropped back down from light-heavyweight to middle weight since the Olympics lost her crucial bout to Yvonni Wansart, of Germany, but stil has a good chance of finishing

with a medal. Howey was unable to upse Wansart with her famoumorote-gari, which looks like? a frontal rugby tackle, is which she scoops up ha opponent's legs.



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RUGBY UNION: WORLD CUP-WINNER READY FOR FINAL ASSIGNMENT

# Leicester look to Stransky to play the pivotal role

the man who dropped the goal that the goal that won the World Cop might have been able to write his own passport to a happy and successful future. In fact, it took Joel Stransky little more than 14 months to understand that he. had little or no future in the South Africa national team and that he should seek em-

ployment elsewhere. When it was suggested to me that Joel might be available, I was flabbergasted." Bob Dwyer said. To me, he is one of the two complete fly halves in world rugby — Andrew Meintens is the other." Neither Dwyer nor Peter Wheeler, respectively director of rugby and chief executive of Leicester, needed to be persuaded that Stransky might be the missing cog in the Leicester works that will see them close a turbulent season in the Pilkington Cup final against Sale at Twickenham

It will be a bitter-sweet occasion for the South African: sweet, because Stransky, 29, is a professional sportsman who has found acceptance in a foreign environment and has helped his adopted club to within sight of a frophy in only four months; bitter, because the passionate atmosphere invoked by the 75,000 crowd at Twickenham can only stir. memories of that June day in 1995 when Stransky, Francois Pienaar and their colleagues became world champions.

1.0

ritish fightbad

David Hands finds a player returning to the stage he deserves at Twickenham

his native land is, in a sense, a tale of South Africa's failure to capitalise on the national euphoria evoked by the 15-12 extra-time victory over New

Zealand at Ellis Park stadium

in Johannesburg. First, the management team broke up and then Stransky found himself the target of a smear campaign, with whispered innuendoes of misbehaviour. Stransky's fervent denial cut little ice with André Markgraaff, the new coach and manager to the national team, who was forced to resign himself earlier this year, ac-cused of racial abuse. "He told me I had been involved in a disgusting sideshow," Stransky said; at the same time, the necessity for denial surgery prevented him playing for six weeks and his omission from the South Africa tour party to Argentina, France and Wales last autumn convinced him that a change of environment

Stransky makes no bones about the benefits he has enjoyed from rugby, even be-fore its official professionalisation in August, 1995. The game took precedence when he was at university in Durban, he discovered exciting possibilities with Cahors in France and the Italian clubs, L'Aquila and San Dona,

Stransky's fall from grace in and the financial structures that operated within South African rugby have long been

> Now he is at Leicester. He had an offer from Racing Club in Paris and met representatives from Harlequins, but personal experience of the family atmosphere at Welford Road helped convince him that he could rediscover his enjoyment in the game in the Midlands.

"I had no preconceptions about rugby in England, I expected it to be tough and challenging and it has been. What rugby boils down to is communication, understanding what players want from each other and that hasn't been hard because the Leicester pack has gone so

"i'm comfortable with the decision-making that playing fly half involves. It helps me

when I was younger. It's a natural position, it's like being a striker in football - these guys who score goals have the

Stransky's ability to decide where the ball will go, apart from earning him the No 10 shirt initially with Northern Transvaal before spells with Natal and Western Province. also brought him 23 appearances for South Africa and 240 international points. Leicester have only started to appreciate game. The most obvious is his sheer points-scoring ability: in 14 appearances, he has regis-tered 186 points, 101 of them in the eight full league games in which he has played. He has a strike rate of 75 per cent, but he is far more, as Dwyer suggests, than a kicking pivot: he gives a game tactical direction and it is his willingness to pull in opposing back-row forwards that can create opportunities for his centres.

Mannix, Sale's New Zealander, will be integral to the fate of the Pilkington Cup.



Stransky has added class to Leicester's colours this season

## Baldwin climbs to prominence

Canada Sandra da Cara da Cara da

THE England management team will meet tomorrow to finalise the replacements required for the party to tour Argentina, which leaves on May 18. Both their middle-ofthe-line jumpers, Martin Bayfield and John Fowler, are unavailable because of injuries and the revisions may include players who oppose each other in the Pilkington

Cup final. Both Dave Baldwin, the Sale lock forward, and Matt Poole, of Leicester, have been told to stand by and, were they to be required in Argentina, the wheel would have gone full circle for both. Poole was a member of the England side that went to Buenos Aires in 1990, without winning a cap, and Baldwin has not toured with an England team since visiting New Zealand with England B in 1992.

Poole, 28, also toured South Africa in 1994, but Baldwin. 30, has not even made an appearance for England A in the past five years, though he remains one of the outstanding technicians in English rugby. On the other hand, the selectors may wish to consider the claims of

Murphy, of West Hartlepool. Geoff Cooke, the Bedford director of rugby, has applauded the play-off system introduced this season, even though his club's hopes of promotion to the Courage Clubs Championship first division took a blow on Wednesday. Bedford will play the second leg at Bristol on Sunday with a nine-point deficit. after losing 20-11, but Cooke believes that it has given second-division clubs a valuable incentive, of which Coventry took immediate ad-

gives us an unexpected chance of the big time." He has received assurances from Frank Warren, the Bedford owner, that resources will be available to recruit during the summer, although on Sunday they will be without Rudolf Straeuli, the South African back-row forward, who ruptured an Achilles tendon

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## **SPORTS LETTERS**

### Hereford have point of return

Sir, The furore over the survival of Brighton in the Football League, with the attendant relegation of Hereford United to the Confer-ence, bewilders me. Naturally, one applauds Brighton for their astonishing feat, seemingly achieved against extreme adversity. Obviously, too, one sympathies with Hereford, as one does with any club that has finlaned. bottom of its division. One thinks warmly of this club for various reasons, not least its. past contribution to FA Cup

giantkilling. However, Hereford will not be embarking on (and Brighton have not been saved from) some twilight world of third-rate football, populated by also-rans and neer-do-wells. The Conference is merely one step down the soccer pyramid. and hardly represents more significant a downturn than relegation from any of the divisions of the Pootball League, Even if Hereford continue to plummet, as did the likes of Southport, Barrow and Workington before them,

From Professor C. Bamforth they will find a world of Sir. The furore over the football that is a joy and from which it is perfectly possible to

There is only one true chasm in the world of English football and that is between the Premier League and the Football League. The divide is characterised by a discontinuity in fiscal reward and exposure, to a degree far surpass-ing that occurring beneath this competition, right the way through the leagues.

THE PTE apart as being closer to the world of entertainment. I contend that sporting values and genuine pleasure in the game of football for its own sake exist in inverse proportion to the status of a league in the footballing pyramid.

Hereford will find a quality

of football hardly discernible from that which they have left, but, more importantly, they will encounter good spirit in refreshing new surroundings. Yours faithfully

C. W. BAMFORTH, Wishorough Green. West Sussex.

### **Empty Saturdays**

From Mr Jeremy Hill Sir, The English cricket season is now being firmly wagged by the tail: to avoid the disruption of the Axa Life League in the middle of Britannic Assurance championship games means that the latter must start on Wednesdays, giving even less genuine cricket for the weekend spectator. Even the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the knockout competitions are in midweek. so requiring the working population to take holiday. Why could these not be played on a Saturday, with Sunday league games being

Yours faithfully, moved, just as they are for the

The presence of overseas players continues to be a

thorny issue. To play along-side the likes of Allan Donald and Wasim Akram is of enormous benefit for young English players, and there was a noticeable improvement in the ability to deal with Anil Kamble's variations once they had been on show for a season. However, to give the likes of Jacques Kallis and Mohammad Akram experience of our conditions must run counter to the aims of the English team. I would propose a minimum of 30 Tests for any overseas signing to avoid our giving valuable experience to international opponents.

JEREMY HILL 96 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden. Hertfordshire.

### Through the hoop

From Mr Justin Green

Sir, I must disagree with the comments of Max Mosley. head of the world automobile federation, that the world prefers football to basketball (report, May 2). Does he appreciate the technical brilliance, the athleticism and the need to win? All NBA teams have to play 80-plus games in a sea-son; their only break is the Ali-Star weekend, where the top players still have to play one game or at least compete in the slam dunk competition.

Basketball is all about tactics and a game plan, similar to Formula One. The pit-stops are time-outs, grandly taken at the most opportune moments. The tyre change is the substitution of different players. The excitement of Formula One matches basketball, where you don't get many 0-0 draws. Jack Nicholson takes time off from filming whenever the

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211.

Los Angeles Lakers play at home, so, for around 40 days of the season, production stops for five men running around like headless chickens and throwing balls at hoops. Yours faithfully. JUSTIN GREEN. Grafton House, Conduit Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

### Beyond city limits From Mr L. E. Smith

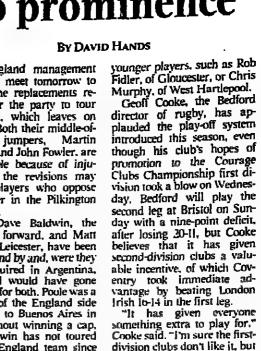
Sir, How can the city of Manchester (report, May 5) be associated with, or claim credit for, the success of the other football teams mentioned? Macclesfield is in Cheshire, Wigan is as close to Liverpool and I am sure the residents of Bolton and Bury do not see themselves as cinizens of Manchester. The more-or-less defunct county of Greater Manchester has been confused with the smaller city. Yours faithfully. L. E. SMITH.

Isfryn, St George Road, Abergele, Conwy.

THE SUNDAY TIMES TESTDRIVE AVIRGIN Liverpoo Milton Keynes Don't miss The Sunday Times this Sunday for details.

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### GOLF: IRISHMAN EMERGES FROM UNDERGOING PAINFUL TREATMENT TO MAKE A STRONG CHALLENGE

# Laser guides O'Connor to target

By JOHN HOPKINS **GOLF CORRESPONDENT** 

FOR a game that is supposed to be no more demanding than a gentle stroll in the sunshine, golf inflicts a rare price in injuries. Not long after José Maria Olazábal was forced to spend hours lying down because he could not bear to put any weight on his feet. Christy O'Connor Jr had to have laser treatment on his left arm, What he could smell was his own burning flesh. When the condition that

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started as tennis elbow was at its worst and the pain so great that he could not lift a saucer or squeeze a tube of toothpaste. O'Connor wondered whether he would ever be able to play golf again. At his gloomiest, he thought he would have to live the rest of his life on the memories that included the celebrated two iron he hit at The Belfry in his singles against Fred Couples in the 1989 Ryder Cup. This stroke enabled him to defeat the American by one hole and set up the tied match that meant Europe retained the trophy they had won at Muirfield Village two years

The welcome evidence that the laser treatment had worked for O'Connor came with a 68, four under par, in the opening round of the Benson and Hedges Interna-tional Open at The Oxfordshire. O'Connor is one stroke behind Greg Turner.

"I came here on Tuesday and it started to snow," Turner said "and I thought I'd just go home. I wasn't in the pro-am so I didn't come to the club and I was glad about that because playing in these conditions would probably have messed up my swing. The strategy has

O'Connor, who had four birdies and 14 pars, was one of only four of the 155-strong field not to have a bogey. He made light of the south-westerly wind, which at times was blowing up to 20mph. A couple of putts failed to drop from three feet on the 2nd, four feet on the 4th for example - but, otherwise, it was a round of which to be

O'Connor described the laser treatment as like "touching a red hot grill". "You're black from the burns," he said. There are sparks and things. I know exactly how Olazabal must have felt, especially so young. You appreciate your life when you're out of it."

O'Connor was never a really hard worker and now he can do even less than he used



Montgomerie, left, trudges off after producing some poor golf, but with a challenging 70 in the Benson and Hedges International Open

to do. He limits his daily practice to 100 balls and a round of golf and, by wearing a tight armband on his left arm, he is rediscovering his form. "The armband helps to disperse the pain." O'Connor said. "I tell myself the arm is not sore." He wants to remain competitive because, at 48, he is only two years away from being able to compete on the seniors tour, which he believes will yield him rich financial

Montgomerie's two under par was puzzling because it was so erratic. The Oxfordshire is a tough and long course and he played it in the toughest and longest. Even so, he would not normally find it so difficult to complete holes in the required figures or even fewer. He had four hogevs. one double-bogey and only five pars. He went from the 18th to the 9th, his 18th, without one par. Yet he also

had eight birdies and went round in 70. What is wrong with Montgomerie? Does he still bear the scar tissue of his bruising encounter alongside Tiger Woods in the third round at the Masters? Has he not got his 81 in the fourth round at Augusta out of his system? Or was this just another of those rounds that come along from time to time

### FIRST ROUND

87: G Turner (NZ) 68: C O'Connor Jr. 69: J Lomas, D Clarks, A Coltart, L West-wood, R Goosen (SA), P Mitchell, P Sjo-lend (Swe), B May (US), 70: C Suneson (So), C Montpornerie, P Leuros B Lender (Spi, C Montgorneris, P Lawne, B Langer (Gar), P Broadhurst, D Howel, K Vanota (Pri), D Borrego (Spi, I Woosram, G Or, B McFarlane, S Lufa (Spi, N Feath (Swe) 71: P Quard (Switz), R Bosell, J Cocares (Arq), I Garnoto (Spi, D Gillord, D Cooper, P Hachborn (Swe), P Eales, T Bjorn (Den), R Karlsson (Swe), J Sperios, G Emerson, 72: J Robson, P Proce, R Rafferty, M-A Martin (Spi, P McGinley, M-A Jimmanz (Spi, D Robertson, S Webster, J Payne I Pyman, F Roca (Spi, I Feliu (Spi, S Ballesteros (Spi, P Baker, K Erisson (Swe), S Allan (Aus), J Haeggman (Swe) in golf - like the 84 with which he concluded this same event at this venue this time iast year.

Europe's leading golfer these past four years not only ran up some amateurish scores; he hit some amateurish shots. On the 1st, he hit a sand wedge only three-quarters of the way to its target. Likewise, his pitch on the 6th only travelled 47 of its 67 yards and, on the 8th, he hit an eightiron only 80 yards and into water when it should have

travelled 130 yards. Montgomerie intended to use the 50-mile drive to his home in Oxshott in these strange strokes. "I have got to be positive and think I have had all those disasters and could have shot 80," he said. "Actually, it was a 70 and that is not bad. I shall come back and try something different. Five pars is not my idea of

## Fairclough aiming to make quick amends

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LORA FAIRCLOUGH, of Lancashire, will make an earbid towards regaining her Solheim Cup place in the opening American Express Tour event of the season in Portugal today. Fairclough is one of the 120 starters in the 54-hole inaugural Estoril Open, being held near Lisbon. Last year, Fairclough was in line for an automatic place in the Europe side for the Solheim Cup at St Pierre, but missed out when she was overtaken in the final counting tournament before the match.

This week, the chase for points

begins towards selection for

the match against the United

States at Muirfield Village in

BALLFLOOM DANCING

Ohio next year.

The leading seven players will earn automatic places, with the remaining five players being chosen by Pia Nilsson, the new captain of the Europe team.

Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, of France, and Florence Descampe, from Belgium, are the other Solheim Cup players in

☐ Laura Davies, of Great mann, of Sweden, recorded rounds of 81 as gusting winds played havoc in the first round of the Gunze Cup World Ladies tournament in Tokyo yesterday. Cheng Mei-chi, of Taiwan, managed an even-par 72 in the tricky conditions to lead by one stroke.

## **Becker and Stich** suffer early exits

BORIS BECKER and Michael Stich were eliminated from the German Open in Hamburg yesterday. Playing in cold, overcast conditions, Becker lost to Felix Mantilla, of Spain, 7-6: 6-2 and Stich was defeated in straight sets by Slava Dosedel, of the Czech Republic, 7-6, 6-2. A third Wimbledon champion was also heaten when Richard Krajicek, of Holland, was beaten 6-1, 6-1 by Andrei Medvedev, of the Ukraine. Medvedev then had to play a second time, beating Jacabo Diaz, a qualifier, from Spain.

Steffi Graf, the world No 2, began her comeback from a serious knee injury yesterday by playing in a local club competition. She helped her team, TC Blau-Weiss Ludwigshafen, to victory, beating Heike Thoms, the German junior champion, 6-1, 6-1. Graf has not played in a competitive tournament since the beginning of February and has lost her place at the top of the rankings to Martina Hingis.

### Italians in command

CYCLING: Mario Cipollini led an Italian sweep of the first three places on the second stage of the Tour of Romandy yesterday, but it was a bad day for his compatriot, Claudio Chiappucci, who failed a blood test. Cipollini claimed the 173km stage to Estavyer-le-lac in Switzerland in an exciting sprint, crossing two bike lengths ahead of the pack in a 4hr committee of the first of the fir 21min 46sec Mario Traversoni was second and Fabio

### Return in Romania

RUGBY UNION: Arwel Thomas will make his international comeback for Wales A against Romania in Bucharest on May 24. The stand-off half, who missed the final five nations' match of the season, against England, because of injury, will be partnered at half back by Paul John. They are two of 11 full internationals in a side that includes the teenage wing threequarter, Gareth Wyatt, of Pontypridd.

## Sohail apologises

CRICKET: Asmir Sohell, the Pakistan opener, has submitted an "unconditional" apology to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), cricket officials said yesterday. They said the PCB's council would review the two-year ban against him, imposed last month for violating a PCB code of conduct by publicly accusing team-mates of involvement in match-fixing and taking



### **Newcomers for Wales**

BOWLS: Jealian Willis, of Port Talbot, and Zoe Silverthorne, of Croesyceiling, will make their international debuts for Wales in the women's home international series in Ayr from June 20 to 23. Four former internationals — Val Howelt, of Merthyr West End, Para John, of Cardiff, and Shirley Gough and Shirley King, both of Llandrindod Wells

### Redgrave honoured

SPORTS AWARDS: Steve Redgrave, who won his fourth Olympic rowing gold medal in 1996, yesterday received the Variety Club and Outward Bound Trust's sportament of the year award from the Duke of Edinburgh. Denise Lewis, the heptathlete, look the women's award and Manchester United the team prize. Disabled awards went to Chris Holmes, the swimmer, and Jo Jackson, for dressage.

# SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

### By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent This Refresher on discarding is about helping your partner.

	Dealer South			Love A
		•K732		
		<b>*</b> Q175		
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		<b>4</b> J 10 4		
	44	N	+01985	
	¥10642	W E	<b>▼K9</b>	
	●A 10753		+1542	
	<b>+A73</b>	5	+52	
		# A 10 6		
		<b>TABS</b>		
		*KQ		
		+ K Q 9 8 5		
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East's jack of diamonds with the queen. He then played on clubs. West held off until the third round, hoping to see if East could make a useful signal. If you have been following this series of articles you will know that it is usually safe to discard from a five-card suit. Here a spade looks safe enough. But East made the more informative discard of the two of diamonds.

in this situation, if you discard from the suit your partner has led, you should discard the spot card you would have led back if you were returning the suit. Here, if East had obtained the lead he would have returned the two, his original fourth highest. Thus when he discards the two it follows that he initially

had either two or four dia monds. Since East would hardly void himself in his partner's suit, in this instance it was clear that he had started with four.

1 C 2 N T

Thus West was able to lay down the ace of diamonds, felling South's king. West cashed the rest of his diamonds to defeat the contract by one trick, taking in all four diamonds and one club. Without East's diamond diseard West might well have played a major suit, attempting to put East in to return a diamond through South's king. Here that would have enabled the declarer to take nine tricks.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

### By Philip Howard

XENOGENOUS a. Kind to strangers b. An unwelcome guest

FLUBDUB a. Pompous language b. A flummery syllabub c. To hoodwink

**EXUNGULATE** a. To exile b. To cut the nails c. With monolithic hoofs FANDANGLE

a. Fooling around b. A window in the roof c. The handle of a lace fan Answers on page 46



### BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Close shave

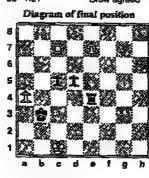
After four games of the remarch between Garry Kasparov and IBM's Deep Blue computer, the score remains deadlocked at two points each. In the fourth game. Kastrarov subtly varied his opening to sidestep Deep Blue's vast

Although Black's opening looked risky, Deep Blue made no attempt to refute it. Kasparov sacrificed a pown for some initiative and came close to a win when Deep Blue tas in game one-gratuitously weakened the pawn shield in front of its king. Neverthe victory.

White: Deep Blue Black: Garry Kasparov New York, May 1997 Wade's Defence

	- 1	
1	94	c6
2	<b>d4</b>	d6
3	Nt3	Nf6
4	Nc3	8g.₄ Bh5
5	Nc3 h3	Bh5
6	Bd3	e6
8	Bd3 Ge2	96 95
8	895 e5	Bs.
9	e5	Ntd7
10	Sze7	Qxe7
11	94	Bo6
12	Bxa6	hka€
13	Bxg6 h4	Na5
14	0-0-0	huge Na6 D-0-0
15	Reg1	No.7
16	Kb1	16
17	e∗f6	C):66
18		Rde8
19	Re1	Rht3
20	rid?	
21	dxe5	e5
		Q14
22	a3	Ne6
23		Ndc5
24		N¢7
25	Q43	Qf7
26	b5	ಗಿರ <b>ದ</b>
27	Con	(78.5

Kc7 OxeS RI7 Rd1 Ri2 Rg2 Rxg4 Nxe5 Nvd4 Roll NG4 Rxd4 Rc4 Rxc2 Kb6 Kc5 Rgt RH+ Re1+ Rc1+ Pato1 + Ré2 53 e6 54 e7 55 a4 PM14 Re4 Kb3 Draw agreed 56 Kc1 Diagram of final position



Running score

1 2 3 4 Pts 1 0 2 2 2 0 1 2 7 2 in the above table, 1 represents a win, in a draw and 0 a loss Raymond Keene writes on thess

### By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Lochner way through on the h-file in

Solution on page 46



# BIRMINGHAM: UK Open ameliaur bindence championship: 1, S Sysum and K Lagden (Eng): 2, D Bennett and R Coster Eng): 3, Portes end J Spencer (Eng): 4, W Brown and K Lunn (Soot), 6, R Windsor and D R Aspety (Eng): 6, R Pauli and T Jedeson (Wales) (Wiles.) LONDON: English pronumberst modern championship: 1, A Sinkinson and C Jongensen (Engl; 2, H Tensita and A Preston Lebeart? 3, Deages and Learning (Engl; 4, O Caccian and O Garshina (Russ); 5, S Harman and C Harman (Engl; 4, English ameleur latin championship: 1, H Perzohalo and N Hersen (Switz; 2, R Hoosan and J Roach (SA), 3, S Sysum and K Lagden (Engl; 4, A Keinz and K Bessley (Engl; 4, D Bernett and R Coster (Engl; 6, D Robertson and S Smith (Scot). EQUESTRIANISM

Seattle
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreel 18 San
Francisco S. Allanta 3 Florida 2 (10mms):
New York Mets 4 Houston 1; St Louis 14
Philadelphia 7; Priteburgh 14 Colorado 3;
Los Angeles 4 Chehrheld 2; San Diego 6
Cheago Cubs S.

BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NEA): Play-offs: Eastern Conference: New York 88 Mann 79 (New York lead best-of-seven sanes 1-1) Western Conference: Scattle 105 Houston 101 (senes tiad 1-1).

Chester

Jack pot: not won (pool of £5,497.34 came forward to LingSeld Park today).

Hamilton Park

Going: solt, heavy in places

Placemot: £995.10. Cumdost: £32.00



Monday to Friday in Sport and in

the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WINNING MOYE

Karner, Leningrad 1940. How did White bulldoze his spectacular fashion?

THE PARTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH



# (167.8 km): 1, G Di Grande (ft) 4kr. Sámin 12sec; 2, G Guerní (h) sema time; 3, M Boogard (Holl) al 6eec; 4, P Tonkov (Ruse) 8eec; 5, M Coppolitio (R); 8, B Zberg (Switz); 7, R Perilo (p); 8, D Rebeilin (II); 9, M Parisani (II); 10, A Moos (Switz); same time. Leading overall positionis: 1, C Boardmins (GB) 5:04 18; 2, E Breulank (Holl) at 2sec; 3, D Bararowsto (Pol) 3; 4, Sevototal 4; 5, Guerni 8; 8, J Baryrea (Be) 8, DZANKINK (FOLK) DAY RACE: Income stage (Boutogne-su-Mar to Herin Mortigry, 184mi); 1, R McEwen (Aus) 4hr. 25min 42sec; 2, D Abdoulaperov (Uzb); 3, J Kisspour (Est); 4, J Musebern (Ge); 6, C Vasseur (Fr); 6, N Jajabert (Fr) ell same trib. Léading overall positionis: 1, W Poeters (Bel) 7hr Sama 55eec; 2, N Matter (Bel) at 4sec; 2, A Totmai (Rusa) 6; 4, McEwen 10; 5, L Genty (Fr) 12.

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS: Leading positions (after linst day of dressage). I equal, Latayer (I. Algoisson, Swel and Custorn Made (D O'Connor, US) 48.6 panelly pts; 3, Acchie Brown (P Mair, GB) 49.4, 4, Headiley Bravo (D Dick, GB) 49.5; 5. Darlon Powers (A Hoy, Aus) 52.0; 6, Bets (7 Collins, Berm) 53.4 BASEBALL AMETRICAN LEAGUE Milmenton 1 Call-land 0, Boston 11 Minnesotta 3; Cleveterro 7 Toronto 1: Deboth 12 Kansas Gty 3; Baltimore 3 Archatm C, New York Yarukees 5 Texas 2 Postpomed: Chicago White Soxt v Seattle FOOTBALL

UEFA CUP: Finel, first leg: Schelle 04 1 FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Luicester City 1 Shelfield Wednesday 0. wy i sheffield Wednesday ().
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE, Premier christon: Ceite G Kilmenock (); Dundee United G Ranger: 1
WORLD CLEP France.

LE LOCLE: Tour of Romandy: First stage

West Richteld 1. Third division: Chester-field 3 Rochdele 1. League Cup: Finish: Stoke 3 York 1 (sect 1-1 stoke 90 min).
Whiston: Sheppey O Carly D.
BIDS EBH - INSURANCE MEDIAND COMMINATION: Franks division: Southern 1 Kings Hearth 1; Suddey Bid 6 Avacturate 1.
ICLS FULL MEMBERS CUP: Finish Aylandon; Suddensing 0 Medicanised 3.
JEWSON EASTERN GOUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Websch 5.
Lovestoft 1.

Lowestoft 1.
OLD BOYS (EAGUE): Premier division: C
Manning O B 2 Old Aloyelamir 3; Glyn O'B 1
Old Hamptoness 0.
PORTUGUETE CUP: Courter-line): Manu 0 Sporting Liston 3.

COPA LISETTADORES: Second round, second, first leg: Nacional (Cruf\*\*1 Colo-Colo (Crile) 3. Nacional (Esu) 1 Cruzalin.

(B) 0. Second round, second leg: River Plata (Arg.) 1 Rocking Cuto (Arg.) 1 (4-4 or agg. Racing Cuto.win 5-3 on pares). ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Bayley Cup: Play-offer: Eastern Conference: Philadel-phia 4 Buffalo 1 (Philadelphia lead best-of-seven series 3-0). Western Confer-ence: Edmonton 4 Coloredo 3 (Colorado lead 2-1). WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP At Temperal Heliogation group: jtsty 4 Stovelda 3,

SECOND DIVISION: Bramley & Humilet 17. RUGBY UNION COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-oils, first leg: Bedford 11 Bristol 20; Coventry 16 London kish 14. WELSH LENGUE That Conjunct Exist Visit 27 Bridgens & Nesshi 3 Lisneth 13; Portypradd 54 Nessport 20; Cardiff 31 Swanssa 20. first: C. Wood bt 1. Surveris 6-3. 6-0: 5
smith but H. Holter 6-3. 6-4: J. Pullin and L. Woodrolle-tal Surveris and Holter 6-0. 6-1)
ROME: Insilan Open verner's currier and Holter 6-0. 6-1;
ROME: Insilan Open verner's currier but for the second round: P. Schryder (Switz) bt 3 Teekud (Fr) 7-8. 6-0. A Contree (SA) bt A Koundoor (Rusia) 6-2. 4-6. 6-1; 1 Meight (Cro) bt N Arendt (US) 7-8. 4-8. 6-3. 6-3. 8
Paulus (Austria) bt A Centra (Cr) 6-1; 1 Meight (Cro) bt N Arendt (US) 7-8. 4-8. 6-3. 8
Paulus (Austria) bt A Centra (Cr) 6-1; 6-2. 6-2. Third round: J Kruger (SA) bt N Habsubore (Shreekel) 6-2. 6-4.
CORAL SPRINGS, Florida: Men's-tournement Second round: J Bodomart (See) bt L. Jersen (US) 6-1, 6-2; S Campbell (US) bt B Back (2m) 3-6. 6-4. 6-3. J A Vitica (Sp) bt P. Friderisson (Swe) 6-4. 6-3. 5-1
Sergaiser (Arm) bt D Flech (US) 7-8. 6-4.
MABURIA: Herris burnament Second round: A Mechadow (Us) bt P. Friglick-(Holt) 6-1, 8-1; J Diaz (Sp) bt P. Friderisson (Se) bt J. Tamano (US) 4-7. 6-8 Brugoens (Sh) bt J. Tamano (US) 4-7. 6-8 Brugoens (Sh) bt J. Tamano (US) 4-7. 6-8 Brugoens (Sh) bt J. Harris (Se) bt S. 5-4. A Costs (Sp) bt S. 5-4. A Method (Sp) 3-6. 6-4. 7-5. Mignific (Sh) bt M. Herris (Sh) 3-6. 6-4. 7-6. W. Fenreirs (Sh) bt A Method (Sh) 3-6. 6-4. 7-6. W. Fenreirs (Sh) bt A Method (Sh) 3-6. 6-4. 7-6. W. Fenreirs (Sh) bt A Method (Sh) 3-6. 6-4. 7-6. 8-7. Find (Sh) bt Decembel (2f) 6-2. 9
Brugoens (Fr) 3-8. 6-2. 6-1; I Method (Sh) bt N. Medicipens (Sh) bt N. Method (S

ANTALYA, Turkey: Fed Cup: Europe-Africa zona: Group best Pool A: Great Britain bt Estonia 3-0 (Great Britain names Britai: C Wood bt 1. Suurvarik 6-3, 6-6: 8 Smith bt H. Holter 6-3, 6-4: J Pulin and L Woodroffeth Suurvarik and Holter 6-0, 6-7)

## RESULTS FROM YESTEROATS TO SE

# 50:39) Cor Lot /r. Image: 43-rio. 12 2.30 (51-40) 1. Vice Presidential (J. Carolt, 8-1). 2. Jacones (20-1): 2. Shaipo Cracker (5-4 play) Meanma: 5 Boy 5-4 J. Jac. 6 ran. 6, 131, 1 Etherington: 1 Boy 5-4 J. Jac. 6 ran. 6, 131, 1 Etherington: Tale: 27-800; 24-40, 93-50, DP 9136-70. CSF €122-14 3.00 (fm \$19\d) 1, Golden Haciner (M Beird, 7-2), 2, Kinteri (7-1); 3, All On (8-4 lev) 7 ran. NF Coss Na Ferraige 23, 51, M Ryan, Tote 24 60; 1:30, 63 60, DF, £11.50., CSF, £23 25 Tricasc £55 31.

4.05 (Im 65vc) 1, Alexel (S Sanders, 2.9 lav); 2, No Grousing (4.1), 3, Tipperary Surset (100-1) 4 ran 18, 3, W Janvis Tole: £1.20, DF £1.40 CSF, £1.30 4.35 (Im 41 17/ct) 1, Sun Mark (S Sandars, 3-1); 2, Kathryn's Pet (10.11 fev); 3, Str Clerics (7-1) 5 ran 1'41, 3's) Mrs A Swinbank, Yote: £3 30; £1 10, £1 50, DF, £1 50, CSF, £5 35; Placepot 52,248.00. Quadget £18.00. Southwell

Court desired 2.20 (1m 4) 1, Sam Peeb (0 Whight, 20-1); 2 Philosophic (6-4 fay), 3 Shacked (12-1); 4, Borne Villa (6-1) 15 ron, 3; 291, Fi Paley, Tote 238 50; 54 70, 2110, 24:10, 24:50, 02: 273 80 Tric 2127:30, CSF, 250 22 Tricses 2415 57

3.20 (5t) 1 Procolo Cativo (Angeta Harriey, 33-1) 2 Blue Kite (11-10 fav), 3, Thorics Kelth (4-1) 12 ran, A., 3), J Wilson, Tota

F to receiver him that warrages, of each

# 029,70; 08.00, £1.30, £1.50 DF: £84.80. Tho. £46.10, CSF: £70.55. 240 IN CSF: 2005, 3.50 E51 J. Lody Shariff (5 Perfén, 7-4 isol; 2, Naover Ster (15-1); 3, Control III (5-1); 13 ran. Hd. \$1 M W Espainshy, Total (22.90; 21 J. 23.60; 22.20; DF: 225-80; Trice 239, 20, CSF: 220, 23. Thioset £127.50 20.53. Tutcast £127.90 4.25 (8) 1. Chilling (f. Stard, 20-1); 2. Desert hunder 5-11; 3. Bold Austborst (13-2). Shon Ledger 5-2 (av. 14 ren. 1 M. 51. N. Turker, Tota: £16.90; £2.90. £4.00. £1.10. DF. 209.80. Titor £157.50 (pert wort. pool of £177.33 carried traveard to £20 at Liagifeld today). 557. £105.88. 4.55 (79 1, Water Garden (A. Clerk, 9-4 lav); 2. Stortmann (14-1); 3. Swam Island (4-1); 4. Tathrid (14-1). 18 mm 18i; 2. G Wrago, Lose £3.90. £170. £4.00. DF. 233.80. Titor £57.10. CSF £38.93. Titorat £119.94.

Placepot £35,30. Wednesday's

late results Wetherby

Going; good to not Going; good to not Goog; good to not Goog; good to not Goog; good to not Goog; good to to Goog; good to Goog; good Goog; go CSF 21.50
7.05 (2m. 4) 110 yd hdie) 1. Diddy Pyrmar (R. Cuest, 10-1); 2. Boston Man (2-1); 3. Rheesen (2-1); Chang King 3-1 tax. 12 mm. 354, 10. Mrs Smith. 10 tax 15 100; 12-20, 12-70, 13-20.
DF 524-50 from 276-50 CSF (778.56.
7.35 (2m. 4) 110 yd chij 1. Nebroles Pierre (3-1); 2. Destin d'Entrant (8-4); 3.

Brighter Shade (2-1 lim), 5 cm. 4, 121 J Golde, Tom. 53:30: £1 50, £2:10. DF: £4.00. CSF: £9.14. A.5 Sim 31 ch) 1. Colonel in Chief IP Carbony, Evens Say; 2, KShala, (15-2; 3, Dragonia Bay (12-1), 7 cm. 51, det. 6 Richards, Toire, 52:10: £1.30, £2:50. DF: £9:70. CSF: £7:50. R 25 KBn blads 1, Zentembrighten (8 Trads.) 11-8.85 (2m hole) 1, Trainy or alloh (8 Taylor, 11-4 fi-leg); 2, Farrylein (114 poer); 3, Herriand Way (8-1); 5 no. 6; 61 1 Golde, Toer 52.70; 51 50, 62 70, Or 67.80; CSP 68.72. Úttoxeter

Seings goods to work
8.50° (3m 2f ch) 1, Front Cover (Mass 5
Victory, 8-2 March 2, Royal Segues (14-1); 2,
Sept. 11-10 (16-1), Seria Federa C. Seller
W cas. 12, deal 8, Piles, Trans (2001); 21-60,
121.00, 62-80, DP cost 00, Thor \$146,70, GSP
785.65 235.65
6.20 (2m ixile) 1, Biotest (al A Pizgerid), 11-6; 2 Micrado (12-1); 3, Paylal Juliet (4-1) Wordsmith 9-4 law, 9 ran, NF: Maggles Lad, 1, Ind. 5 Golfings, Tole, 22.66; 61.60, 12.60, 0.7 (2.6), 21.90, DF: 216.50, Trice 252.10, CSF: 223.46, Tricest-212.279, 2.7 (2.6), 1. 7-20 (2m hdfe) 1, Frunth in Line (N Marston. 7-20; 2. Wee King (2-1 last); 3, Dereichan (5-0), 5 ran. 4, 5, M Wildrach Total St. 80; 51.70, 52.80 DF. 58.50, CSF; 511.20

El. Til. 42.30 DF. 58.50, CSF. 5(1) 20 7.50 (2n 4f ch) 1, Formal Invitation for B Thomass, 7-4 f-layl, 2, Ancienness (14-1); 3, Sellor Jim (7-4 p-lay) 5-ran, 3, 25 D Michelson, Toar 52.30, 5: 90, 250, 07 82.00 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, let Christie (A Thomass, 5-1); 2, Becatified Fyer (4-1); 3 Lottery Ticker (4-1) 15 ran, 6; 11 Mins L Seldal, Tole 50.00 (2.50), 62.00, 74.00 DF: 211-80 Tick 518.90 CSF (24-8).



**曜のまとしかとより** 

- have been recalled.

# Royal Court displays sense of theatre

RACING CORRESPONDENT

FOR Robert Sangster it was a dream come true, but for the father and son combination of Barry and Michael Hills the thrilling outcome to yesterday's Ormonde Stakes at Chester crushed their hopes of a fairytale success.

As the mud-spattered leaders turned for home, Hills senior could hardly believe his luck as he peered through the eloom and saw his two runners, Moonax and Further Flight, vying for the lead, with the day's feature race apparently at their mercy,

in command

183 Romania

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Nap: TANGO KING. (8.20 Nottingham) - .

Next best: Musharak

(4.20 Lingfield Park)

The cantankerous but talented Moonax, racing with an enthusiasm normally reserves for biting people, was in front briefly before Further Flight took over. The magnificent old urged on by most of the drenched spectators at the Roodeye - and the man in the

saddle. For more than a week Michael Hills has been stuck on the 999 winner mark. At last, the thousandth riding success of his career seemed within his grasp — on the horse which he calls my best

Carl Evans: 4.00 Greenmount Lad.

(£2,355: 2m 5f 1†0yd) (8 runners) . . . .

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)

2.00 ALPHAMERIC NOVICES HURDLE

2.00 Catch The Pigeon, 2.30 Barton Heights, 3.00 Mr Reiner, 3.30 Over The Stream, 4.00 Greenmount Lad, 4.30 Fatehallsheir.

(E.C., SGS: ZIT St. (1970) (8 FURTHERS)

1 2-72 MIZERA 329 (8-7) M Hummond 6-11-7 R. Gartiny

2 7821 CATCH: THE PISCON 7. (CD.F) R Ban-8-11-2 N. Scribn

3 0F1 ROYAL YORK 16 (6) 6 Bickents 5-11-2 P. Carbony

4 04-0 ANGTHER GEORGE 30 Alias M Milegam 7-11-9 A. & Scribn

5 383 ERRA 52 I THAS 5-11-0 R. Miccardy (7)

8 0000 RUBISCAW 13 (A) Alias K Lama 5-11-0 Miles S Lamb (0)

7 POPO STROMG CHARACTER 7 (5) 0 Lumb 11-11-0 Miles S Lamb (0)

8 PODO TOS-REA 7 ALK 69 P Bickent 5-11-0 Q Micrographs (7)

11-0 Royal York, 3-1 Massak, 7-2 Clarch The Pignon. 10-1 Sm.; 16-1 Another George, Tostellan Talk, 33-4 techans.

(10,1/12). ZHT 37 (11 UYU) (19)

1 U140 RED JARN JAR 36 (CDJ. 5). \$ Bell 12-12-0 ... K Johnson 2 4912 BARTON HEIGHTS 7 (BF.F.S) Mes M Brooker 5-11-6 ... P Riven 3 8831 R.J.N.T.O.C.K 7 (SD.F. H American 7-10-8/5-6). R. Horiton (5) 4 5246 SHOWY LANE 41 (E.S.) J Media 9-10-5 ... R. Germany 5 3625 SHELICIR ABREY 13 (BLG.F.G.S.) J Whith 11-10-8 ... P Carbony 6 R44 ROYAL HAND 14 (V) R American 7-10-1 ... Mr R Armson 7-10-1 ... Mr R Armson 7-10-1 ... Mr Carbony 6 8 3830 CRITICAL HAND 15 (E.G. H. 10-10-1 ... C MicConstack (7) 8 0-25 MITE SPRITE 7 R Not 7-10-4 ... 6 Reptor (6) 9 3830 CRITICAL HADY 25 (8) If Cange 7-10-1 ... 8 Beatler (5) 4 Beatler (6) 7 Beatler (7) 7 Beatler

9-4 Barton Helphin, 19-4 Figurach, 11-2 Red Juny Jun, 13-2 Scowy Late, 7-1 Stellon Aktes, 12-1 Reput Hand, 20-1 Obvious Red, 25-1 affects.

3.00 DUDLEY DUKES ANTIQUE FAIR HOVICES

CHASE (E3.127: 2m 110yd) (11)

1 3PG1 GURE SSHORE 25 (LA) M Brews 8-11-7 G Carlill
2 GP13 ANSTODENUS 25 (B) Mai L Newton 8-11-0 8 Johnson
3 RSF CHILOSWAY 39 (F.8) S J Richeron 8-11-0 8 Johnson
4 PPPB LEFTON 90 (L.5) J Carlis 6-11-0 8 Sentitly
5 P224 MDSS PAGEANT 49-(G) F Waten 7-11-0 B Storey
6 -2P2 MSR REDUET 185 (C.F.C.S) J Waten 9-11-0 P Carbotry
7 P004 MDSONYS FLAME 9 S PRANTING 9-11-0 R S SMIN
8 -2P5 SUMRALA SHINE 20P S Clear 9-11-0 MRS R Clear (C.F.C.)
9 0055 WLD BROOK 6 B BBno 7-11-0 BBS R Clear (T)
10 02F0 MEES A DANGER 35 (D.F) Mais L Remeil 5-10-8. A Thornton
11 07F0 MEES A DANGER 35 (D.F) Mais L Remeil 5-10-8. A Thornton
11 07F0 MEES A DANGER 35 (D.F) Mais L Remeil 5-10-8. A Thornton

3,30 GEORGE CARPENTER MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,574: 3m 3f) (10)

11-8 Cross Equeny, 5-1 Blazing David, 13-2 Over The Stream, 8-1 Temple Serfit, 10-1 Strato View, Japany Gig. 12-1 January O'Dea, 16-1 others.

1. 1-42 JOHOWE HEAD 13P (CD.F.G.S) Miss C Binishorough 13-13-0

2 R112 SRESHMOURT LAD 25 (C.F.S.S) J Comforts 2-12-10 M Wisson (5) M Wisson (5) M Wisson (5) Comforts 2-12-10 M Wisson (7) S 292P PRESS FOR ACTION 20 (F.S.S) S Shirter-Benson 12-12-10 Miss P Robson (5) M PP42 SUCKANEER BAY 27P S Pitendrigh 10-12-7 R Hale (5) P133 DONSINE 6 (F) 6 White 9-12-7 J Walton (6) B21 WHAT CHANCE 58 (D.S.S) Miss H Michigan 9-12-5 A Charles-Invanily (7)

A Charles-Jones (7)
13-8 Greenmount Lad, 11-4 Known Head, 3-1 What Charles, 7-1 Press For Action, 12-1 Donside, 14-1 Suclament Bay

PRIMADEL (E.2.,246. 2011 11) (1)

1 0-53 SHARP SENSATION 218 (0.F) & A Harles 7-12-0. R Santisy
2 3013 EDEN DANCER 15 (8F.F) Mrs M Reveloy 5-11-10 ... P Rivers
3 70-0 MAPPENAL BIO 22F (6) F Mayphy 9-11-10 ... M Poster
4 2321 FATEHALKHARR 7 (20.F) & Billion 5-71-7 ... C McCourract (7)
5 0426 ERRNY 14 (F.S) J Coinn 8-11-1 ... R Supple
6 FPGS BEAU MARTEO 116 Miss IN Indignat 5-10-9 ... A S Smith
7 3054 JENDORCET 7 C Ratherst 7-10-1 ... A S Smith
7 3054 JENDORCET 7 C Ratherst 7-10-1 ... A Second 5-1-1 ... F Parent
5-4 Fatehalthad, 11-2 Eden Dancer, Beau Matelot, 7-1 Jendorcal, 8-1 Sharp.
Sencation Erry, 12-1 Impenal Biol.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSERS: Mrs. M. Reucley, 72 whores from 255 maners, 28.2%, F. Liurphy, 3 from 11, 27.3%, T. Tale, 6 from 24, 25.0%; H. Alexandes, 6 from 30, 20.0%; P. Bessmord, 17 from 88, 19.3%, G. Richards, 5 from 33, 15.2%.

JOCKEYS: P. Noter, 58 witness from 187 rudes, 31 0%, Mr. N. Wilson, 3 from 12, 25.0%; C. McCormack, 4 from 17, 23.5%, R. McGrath, 4 from 25, 16.0%, P. Cacheny, 4 from 26, 15.4%; N. Smith, 14 from 98, 14.3%.

4.30 FEDERATION BREWERY HANDICAP

4.00 GUY CUNARD HUNTERS CHASE

(Amateurs: £1,842; 2m 5f) (6)

HURDLE (£2,248, 2m 1f) (7)

CHASE (£3,127: 2m 110yd) (11)

2.30 JOHN WADE STOUP OF COMPANIES SELLING HANDICAP HUNDLE

(£6,775: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

Unfortunately, John Reid



Royal Court, right, edges ahead of Further Flight in a thrilling duel for the Ormonde Stakes at Chester yesterday

and Royal Court had not read the script. Royal Court, scrubbed along by Reid for much of the race, finally got the message and, as the fur-

final 100 yards. "It's so annoying," Hills senior said, "Michael said he long pole loomed, the Sadler's had the winner stone cold at Wells colt began to close the one stage. It would have been gap. Further Flight sensed the

SHATFORD

5.40 Maid For Adventure, 6.10 Stately Home, 6.35 Sharp Command, 7.05 Disco Des Mottes, 7.35 Most Equal, 8.05 Desmond Gold, 8.35 Dovetto,

5.40 PRAGNELL TROPHY NOVICES HURDLE

6.10 RECHARDSON DEVELOPMENTS
NOVICES CHASE (23,652: 2m 51 110yd) (5)

1 2813 SPESIBACK 23 GIF F. 2.9 P Hobbar 6-11-6. N Williamson
2 P822 STATELY HOME 13 (C.F.G) P Bouton 6-11-6. R Johnson
3 SPF1 MONES SCHAM 13 (6) 6 Hobbard 9-11-4. P Heetby (2)
4 -829 PRINGRAM PRES 50 G Ham 7-0-12. M M Finit (7)
5 5-P4 LITTLE GAPS 73 R Les 6-10-12. M Finit (7)
B Fundam

Succe States Home, 5-2 Gramback, 7-2 Monies Sotres, 14-1 Finsigns Free, 25-1 Little Galax

6.35 PRAGNELL TROPHY NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,346: 2m 6f 110yd) (9)

7.05 HARTSHORNE MOTOR SERVICES SKY LTD (WALSALL) HANDICAP CHASE (26,334; 2m 5i 110yd) (5)

7-4 Disco Des Mottes, 5-2 Air Shot, 4-1 Deatley Calls, 5-1 Philip's Woody, 5-1 Strong Medicine

7.35 NEEDHAM & JAMES HANDICAP SKY HURDLE (£2,861: 2m 110yd) (10)

1 0130 DUT RANGING 13 (D.F.G.S.) J Neede 5-11-13 .... T Discombe
2 1300 MOST ECRUL 34 (CD.F.S.) M Pape 7-11-13 .... A P McCop
3 3112 DUT ON A PROMISE 7 (D.F.) N Water 5-11-8 ... N Williamson
4 3255 SAMP 15 (D.F.S.S.) M 3 Local 5-11-6 ... N Williamson
5 113F SEVERN GALE BY CD.F.R.S.) J Alban 7-11-3 .... X ACQUAR (S.)
6 4550 SEEP MEN MADO 13 (CD.F.S.S.) J Alban 7-11-3 .... X ACQUAR (S.)
7 2334 CDOLEY'S VALVE 13 (D.F.) M SS Williams 9-10-13 ... J Duffully
8 5033 NOSHWILLE STAR 7 (D.F.) M SS Williams 9-10-13 ... J Duffully
10 1256 PART OF JACKS 127F (CD.BF F.G.) P Hotels 7-10-6 R Democody
10 721- GUNNER RE GOOD 657 (CD.F.) J K Cresswell 7-10-1 ... T EBY:

7-2 (but On A Promise, 11-2 Mers Equal, Isalab, 13-2 Osc Rambing, 8-1 Keep Me in Mind, Caroloy's Valve, Mashellie Star, Pair Of Jacks, 14-1 olimes

8.05 JOHN AND NIGEL THORNE MEMORIAL CUP

1 11-P THE MAJOR GENERAL 77 (D.G.S) 6 Richards 10-12-10
A Ogden (7)
D LIBA DESMOND GOLD 7 (D.G.S) K Pearss 9-12-0 D S Jones (7)
P000 FARRHED 35 (D.G.) Mrs D Stresset 12-12-0 Miles C Brisset (7)
4-543 EAY RICHARY 139 (G.S.) Mrs D Dynon 11-12-0
Miles C Dyson (7)
5 1213 Hall ISLAND 9 (D.F.G.S) C Securing 10-12-0 R Securing (7)
6 4014 KRND 10 (D.D.G.S) A Marin 10-12-0 R Desmon (7)
7 3210 TARA BOY 9 (D.F.S) R Teagen 12-12-0 R C Carbinay (7)
8 33-1 578LTUDO 4P (D.G.S) C Wiston 10-11-9 C Wilson (7)
R A To before Connect 12-14 kills intend 12-12-0 C Lot 6-1 Vice Miles (10-11-9)

9-4 The Abster General, 11-4 Hill Island, 4-1 Desmort Gold, 6-1 Klon, Salikudo, 8-7 Gay Rudion, 10-7 Tara Boy, 20-1 Enriqui

8,35 A.H.P. TRAILERS WOMBOURNE NOVICES

**COURSE SPECIALISTS** 

TRANERS: O Sherwood, 9 wirmers from 31 manners, 29.0%, M Pine, 27 from 101, 26 7%, D Micholson, 16 from 80, 36.7%, C Barwoll, 5 from 20, 25.0%, N Hendesson, 5 from 22, 21.7%, DCICCYS: S Winners from 37 ridge, 27.0%; J A MicCarley, 8 from 31, 25 8%, R Danessorb, 27 from 102, 20.0%; A P MicCarley, 17 from 88, 19.1%; C Lieuwillen, 12 from 65, 18.5%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Carlele: 3.40 Needle Metch. 4.10 Toronto Lingfield Park: 2.20 Dancing Mystery. 3.50 Worldwide Sise. Nottingham: 5.00 Meters. 7.20 Palamon 7.50 Ety Resitoot. 8.20 Moorbird. Sadgetleid: 2.30 Cation Lady. 7.35 Keep Me in

HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,444: 2m 110yd) (14)

HUNTERS' CHASE (Amateurs: £2,108: 3m) (8) 1 11-P THE MAJOR GENERAL 77 (D.G.S) 6 Richards 10-12-10

Carl Evans: 8.05 Desmond Gold.

(Div 1: £2,360: 2m 6t 110yd) (10 runners)

COING: GOOD

threat and stuck out his neck his thousandth winner on the but was overhauled inside the horse which has done so much for his career." However, as the Hills lamented their misfortune. Sangster was in a London

restaurant celebrating a nota-

ble treble. The hard-fought

win of Royal Court, trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam. came after the owner-breeder's silks were carried to victory by Panama City in the Chester Vase and Top Cees in the Chester Cup, the other feature races of the three-day meeting.

With Barry Hills pulling out Musalsal from the Dee Stakes, only three runners went to post. Crystal Hearted, the 9-2 outsider, handled the heavy ground. Barnum Sands and Teofilio, the 5-4 jointfavourites, did not. End of story. The winner, owned by Carolyn Poland and trained by Henry Candy, her brotherin-law, is entered in the Derby. "But you can't call that a true Derby trial in those conditions," Michael Poland. the owner's husband, stated realistically.

The most striking performance of the afternoon came in the opening EBF Sefton Maiden Fillies' Stakes when Bodfaridistinction justified the high regard in which she is held by her trainer, Alan

Bailey.
"I think she is very good; the best I have ever had. She might end up going for group races. On good ground she is something else. I worked her with two older horses who have won and I could not believe it. I thought I was dreaming."

On the subject of dreams. there was a cautious reaction vesterday to plans, announced by Michael Osborne, for a \$20 million world series of races in the millenium. Given the opposition to the formation of a European Breeders' Cup. because of differences between various countries, achieving agreement for a world thoroughbred series will not be easy. "Where will it fit into the pattern of racing, not just nationally, but internationaliv?" John Dunlop, the Arundel

## CARLISLE

THUNDERER 2.10 Lakeland Pride, 2.40 Allinson's Mate, 3.10 Jack The Lad. 3.40 Rymer's Rescal. 4.10 Skyers Flyer. 4.40 Trilby.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.10 CARTOUCHE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.10 EBF CALDEW MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0: £3,404: 5f) (6 runners)

2.40 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (£2,472: 6l 206yd) (8)

2-7 Brockuru Gold, 7-2 Kemo Sabo, 4-1 Allanson's Mate, 5-1 First Gold, 8-1 Concepts, Cheropagos On Iox, 10-1 others

3.10 CARLISLE, SREAT RAILWAY CITY, 1997 HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3,216: 71 214yd) (11)

11-4 Abagany, 7-2 Carlouche, 4-1 Jack The Lad. 6-1 Fauna, 7-1 Beau Richarlo. 8-1 Emby-Jayine, King Uno, 10-1 Tycogo Tina. 12-1 obsers.

3.40 BORDER ESK HANDICAP

(£2,960: 5f 207yd) (11)

(7) 640- BRECONBUL LAD 182 (D.F.6) Mass S Holl
5-9-YDD0001YUL 100
(8) 1825 AMERON 4 (CD.BF.F.G.5) J Berry 10-9-5-17 E Durcan (5) 88
(11) 0002 MASSART 5 (E.D.G.S) R Mexchir 4-9-6. K Shod (7) 96
(116) 005 MOST RESPECTIVE 14 D Smith 4-8-12. L Channock 95
(5) 0802 RYMSERT S RASCAL 7 (D.S.) E Abson 5-8-12. J Toronton 105
(5) 1600 INSTITUTE MATCH 5 (B.D.C.) J C Neu 4-8-10. J Carroll 16
(2) 0802 STEPHENSONS ROCKET 18 (F.G.S.) R Fabry 6-8-9
(2) 0802 STEPHENSONS ROCKET 18 (F.G.S.) R Fabry 6-8-9
(4) 0802 STEPHENSONS ROCKET 18 (F.G.S.) R Fabry 6-8-9 | 197 | 1-06 | SINGERONDO GART | 17 (0.1047, 10.0) | 18 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 18 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) | 19 (0.002 | 1-0-1) 3-1 Bollin Durothy 7-2 Ameri. 5-1 Stephenson, Rockel, 6-1 Rymer's Rascal, 7-1 Naedie Match, Prymg Harold, 8-1 Kid Ory, 10-1 others

4.10 INTHING LIMITED STAKES (\$2,542: 51) (10) 1 (5) 0381 SHADOW JURY 4 (8.0.F.G.\$) D Crapman 7-9-6 7 (7) 8-00 RED ROMANCE 16 D Smith 3-8-8. ... A Containe 97 (8) 400 RED ROMANCE 16 D Smith 3-8-8. ... A Containe 97 (8) 2010 SKYCRS FLYER 4 (D.F. 6) Ren Thompson 3-8-5 TMServer 63 (1) 00-0 TORONTO 13 (6) J Barry 3-8-5 ... J Wester 63 (1) (10) 3600 LURAR MUSIC 10 (0,F) Ron Thompson 3-8-5 N Convention 60

4.40 EDEN HANDICAP (£2,791: 1m 6f 32yd) (9) (5) 00-3 RECLUSE 7 (BJ) W Aurop 6-7-10 ...... W Carloin 80

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANERS: M. Channon. 14 winners from 25 runners, 56.0%; M. Prescoe. 10 from 25 40.0% Mez. 5 Hail 3 from 9, 33.3%; Mrs. J. Remoder. 13 from 52, 25.0%, Mrs. M. Revaley. 15 from 64, 29.4%, P. Etans, 6 from 30, 20.0%.

## NOTTINGHAM

5.00 Meranti. 6.25 Soviet Leader. 6.50 Star. 7.20 Cyrian, 7.50 Tonks. 8.20 Tango King. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 6.25 Soviet Leader.

DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.00 COLWICK PARK APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£1,985: 6t 15yd) (18 runners)

(21.985; 6f 15yd) (18 runners)

1 140 CROESD CYMRES 245 (0.F.G) 8 Palling 4-10-0 C Linuchir (5) 3
2 3-34 MREACRES 4 (V.F.G) N Extrapa 6-94 ... Sophie Mitched 16
3 5200 MELLORS 28 (V.D.G) M Heaten-Bits 4-94 ... J Fronte (5) 14
4 10-6 BATALERR 14 (0.5) Mits J Bouer 4-9-3 ... R Market
5 0-25 MALLESRE 5 (P) M Wine 5-9-13 ... B Prench (5) 12
6 0-141 MERANTI 21 (C.D.F.) Bradley 4-9-13 ... B Prench (3) 12
7 0566 COPPETATION 19 F P R Wideb 3-9-12 .. David O'Neil (5) 11
8 25-4 MONE SMARTLY 8 (V.D.F.) Mrs. L Stotke, 7-8-11 G Faulisser 17
9 0-00 MELLE NORTH 10 (B.G.) B McCant 4-9-11 ... A Fadery (3) 8
10 000 LEIGH CROFTER 1 (B.D.F.G.S) P Cundel 8-8-8 Airree Cook (3) 13
17 0000 LOCHON 18 (D.F.G) Mrs. M Macasley 6-3-8 ... G Milligan (3) 18
18 19 DUGWYNDE (69 (6) B Stotker 3-8-1 ... G Milligan (3) 18
19 0-00 ACM SMEET MATE 18 (B.D.G.) S Bouring 5-8-2 ... F Porte (7) 10
15 0555 AOUNT COLEDN 10 R Resere 3-8-1 ... T Field (5) 2
10 000 GREAT MALL 244 (D.F.G.) P Cundel 8-7-12 .. C Cogan (5) 8
18 565 LORRIS SOLU 254 (D.F.F.) Hussel 7-1-10 ... P Doe (5) 15
15 Mesque, 8-1 Cropso Cromes, Massacres, Mithestone, 10-1 Polymynce 12-1

5-1 Mesante, 8-1 Crosso Cymnes, Missecures, Missecures, 10-1 Patymystre 12-1 Methans, Misse Saturity, Leigh Crotter, 16-1 others

6.25 BRITISH BUS MEDIAN AUCTION SKY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,226: 6! 15yd) (13)

5.50 E B F NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION SKY FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,600: 51 13yd) (9)

# 7.20 WEATHERBYS PRODUCTION SKY

5 Drowns 4 5 1 CYRIAN 62 (S) P Cole 3-8-9 . T Dation 1 6 45-0 DAWAM ALLAL 28 W Jame 3-8-7 . . . R Cochans 5 11-4 Cyrap. 109-20 Alaftai, 7-2 Yopan Red., 5-1 Espilano Protess. 7-1 Patamon. Disarra Missi

7.50 STUDENTS IN HALF PRICE HAMDICAP (£2,277: 1m 1/213yd) (18)

1 0-15 WHAT A FUSS 74 (6) 8 Harbary 4-10-0 ... J Stack 4
2 10-0 TORNA 13 (0.75 £) Plains 5-9-12 ... D Harrison 15
3 -000 ULA PEDIGO 11 (0.6) Wiss J Caze 4-9-12 ... Marin Days (3) 13
6 40-0 KIESTAL BREEZE 44 (0.5 6.5) W Mun 5-9-10 ... J Reat 14
8 -230 JEAN PERRE 7.1 Pearre 4-9-10 ... L Detton 7
7 033 - ERRANT 147 (0.6) D Casyrore 5-9-8 ... D O'Donatine (3) 11
8 0564 BERTIED 13 (0.5) D Casyrore 5-9-8 ... D O'Donatine (3) 11
8 0564 BERTIED 13 (0.5) D Casyrore 5-9-5 ... S Webstate 5
10 0-10 CASHAPLENTY 41 (6) N Libroiden 4-9-6 ... S Medicate 5
10 0-10 URSH KORSIMAN 45 Vandey 4-9-4 ... S Sudniver (7) 8
12 41-7 ARCATURA 139 (0.8) C Larres 5-9-5 ... C Loudier (7) 9
14 103 - COMEDY RIVER 171 (0.7 6) N Borry 10-9-4 ... S C Rustor 17
15 0-03 RICCHARS 789 (2.25 (7) R O'Sakhon 49-4 ... R CACERDE 6
17 00-6 GOLDEN FAWN 41 W Beburg 9-9-4 ... R CACERDE 6
18 100- DOUBLE RUSH 129 (0.8) F. G) I Wital A Fuss. Ionka Jean 13-2 Gold Latter 8-1 Kreszi Breszi Arcatusa, 10-1 What A Fuss, Tonika, Jean Pierre Berneto, 14-1 Sther:

### 8.20 NEXT GENERATION OF RACEGOERS HANDICAP (3-Y-O. £3,252. 1m 6t 15yd) (17)

(3-Y-O. 23,252. 1m 6i 15yd) (17)

1 00-2 TAXGO KNE 39 (8) J Dunio 9-7 ... L Detici 3
2 10-6 SWALLOW BREZET 13 (C.f.) J Scarged 9-6 Di O'Donohoe (3) 1
3 4112 TOUCHYNED 32 (8-6) M Johnston 9-5 J Weaver 17
4 524 MOUNTAINEER 27 (8-6) M Bell 9-2 ... M Frinton 10
5 00-4 LE GRAND GOUSEN 197 M Wilsons 9-1 R Cochrane 6
6 0-65 MOORBERD 27 (9-1) L Harris 9-0 ... K Falton 10
7 000- CLEAR THE ART 241 P Cole 8-17 ... J Reid 7
8 00-4 WELDMOOR 15 J Behns 3-8 ... J Reid 7
9 00-6 JUCRIOR 25 J Pearre 8-8 ... J Reid 7
9 00-6 JUCRIOR 25 J Pearre 8-8 ... B Doyle 15
10 0-50 MAZARA 21 A FOUSE 8-7 ... T Sprake 11
11 4220 SPONDILLIOS 1 B Broom 8-6 ... In Person 13
2 00-0 MEACHAR 21 F ROUSE 28 LES P Dutient 8-2 ... G Prome 5
13 0-50 WARRIOR KONG 28 LES P Dutient 8-2 ... E Drownt 5
14 0055 MARFENDAN 15 E KNESS 7-13 ... Kisst Trickles 14
15 0069- MELL WOOD 188 M Tomptons 7-12 ... Disk Editions 14
15 -644 ALBERUAM 39 J Write 7-11 ... M Behrit (5) 2
11-4 Taxon Kits 5-1 T-activity 10 13-2 Mountaineer 8-1 Clear The Art, 10-1 11-4 Tango King, 5-7 Transtringo 13-2 Mountainers, 8-1 Clear The Av., 10-1 Swallow Breeze, Juneata, 14-1 to Esand Bouser, 16-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRABERS, N Bathage, 3 wener; tron 11 numers, 27 3%, J Danloy, 18 from 105 17 0%, M Jarus, 5 from 30, 16 7% M Wase, 3 from 18, 16 7% P Mains, 5 from 31, 16 1%, M Johnston, 8 from 57, 14 0%, M Bell, 9 from 68, 13 2%. JOCKEYS, L Deston, 25 winners from 130 rides, 192%, J Raid, 13 from 78, 16 7%; Paul Eddory, 12 from 75, 15 6%; T Dumm, 13 from 85, 15.3%, S Kiebster, 3 from 22, 13.6%, K Falton, 16 from 126, 12.7%.

## LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.50 Pengamon 2.20 Willow Dale

2.50 Whisky Mack

3.50 Classic Beauty 4.20 Musharak 4.50 MARCH CRUSADER (nap)

3.20 Crown Court

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3,20 CHEWTT. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.20 Crown Court.

### **GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD**

102 (7.1) 0-0432 6000 TIMES 74 (CO SEF, C.5) (Art. 9 Petrogon) S Hail 9-10-0 B West (4) 88 Coute and dictance some: 8° — beaten toronte or letter race) Going on which borse has won (5 — lura good to firm, hard 0 — good 5 — soil good to still, heavy). Other in brackets. France: Age and weight. Picks plus any allowance fire Times Private Handersopper - Taking Recorded number—Date on Especials—Surfigure form if — feit P — polled up. U — occueded nates B — brought dates S — feit dates a proper feit dates of proper feit dates S — when M — brood S — Specials C — course women D — dictance waters CD —

DRAW, 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.50 KAHYASI HANDICAP (All-weather: \$3,646 1m) (12 runners) 

BETTING, 11-4 Farmord, 7-2 Sames Supports. 7-1 From Light, 6-1 Cooking, 10-1 yearing Amazon, 10-1 colors FORM FOCUS

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2.20 GOLDEN HORSESHOE HANDICAP (£3,018: 51) (14 runners)

| Column | C

SETTERS 3-4 April in The Farms 6-1 Julie D'Exerce 7-1 Walton Date blues, 3-1 Adm 10-1 test Tone, Folly Goughly, 16-1 others

### FORM FOCUS

MIAAS best effort '41 One of 7 to 1070 Cby in handings here (AW, 55) on penulturale control of the standard place (AW, 55) on penulturale control of the sta farmenth (5) good)
THERD PARTY about 7) (5) of 10 to Peppeal in auchon maden at Folhestons (6) good to term, HALF TORKE hists effort best Square Conic 2) in 12-

2.50 RACING CHANNEL STEVE WOOD MEMORIAL NOVICE STAKES (2-Y-0: £3,064: 5f) (9 runners)

3,004. Of (9 formers)

\$1 SENDOTH SALING 13 (D.G) (A Parch) P. McAulike 9-4. J. Reid

\$2 PRINCE FOLEY 10 D.BF.F) (Foley Seet Loc) W.S. M. Turner 9-0. D. McGriffen [7]

\$0 RASIC STYLE 13 (M. Moore) N. Callaghan 8-12. S. Drowns -HIGH-MICHEY Highster Reveng Life 5 Level 8-12. Place Eddery -
\$ SERCEANT IMP 4 (W. Mann) P. Machell 6-12. Place Eddery -
\$ SERCEANT IMP 4 (W. Mann) P. Machell 6-12. M. Henry (3) 80

\$ MHISKY MACK NO (8F) (Windows) Icom's Phance 8-12. Deep 0 The 8-1

ENGLISH LADY (Exglich Lady Cassers) M. Hypres 8-7. T. Control -
\$ \$ SOLWAY LASS 10 (8) Levenstoon, P. Eccles 8-7. C. Paulze 75.

\$ Ministry MACK School 11 Mayors (18 --) A Member 14.1 Beau English 14.1. BETTING: 15-8 Whishy Linck, 9-4 Smooth Sailing, 4-1 Procon Foley, 8-1 High Money, 14-1 Basic Style, 16-1 Highbury Logend, 20-1 gines,

FORM FOCUS

SMOOTH SABLING test Ron's Pet neck in 10-turnes maden at Sandown (St, good) with BASIC STYLE (68) bedier oil) 12 10th. PRINCE FOLEY 7% at oil 11 to Rusty Sabe en rowce at Holling-ham (51, good) SERGEANT BAP about 71 8h oil 8 to Another Fantop in mades at Asception (5). Salection: SMOOTH SABLING

3.20 HAVANA HORSE UK LIMITED STAKES (£5,163: 71 140yd) (7 runners)

FORM FOCUS

AL ABRAO 23 14th of 19 to Hawkzky Hill or handcap at Nokenhamton (AW. 71) LILLI CLARE about 641 6th of 8 to Polar 759 58 of 25 to Tregaron in handcap at Akta (71, good) of farm CROWN COURT best ellon best Emily-Mou 5i in handcap at Newmarks (1m, good) of the handcap at Newmarks (1m, good).

3.50 LADY O FILLIES HANDICAP (All-weather: £3,044 1m 2f) (12 runners)

Long handicap' Biba 7-7 Efficacions 7-4 BETTING: 4-1 Classic Beauty 9-2 Shanghai Lit, 11-2 Buibble Wings, 6-1 Memora, 7-1 Mono Lady, 8-1 others. FORM FOCUS

BUBBLE WINES 14 2nd of 10 to Omara in handi-cap at Yamouth (1in 2), good to Birth) MONO LADY about 101 5th of 18 to Nunecash in handicap at Leicester (1in 2), good to soft) CALENDULA best ellot host MONO LADY short-hand in 6-numer handicap at Wintvertampton (AW, 1in 41).

4.20 TEENOSO MAIDEN STAKES (Div I £3,646; 71) (12 runners)

BETTENG: 13-8 Mushwai. 7-2 Gharb. 8-1 Mourpool, 10-1 Might Egyress, Prince Zando, 14-1 Gille, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

GHARIB 8'-1 5th of 11 to Teolifo in marken at Bevestry (1m 100vd, good to firm) MOWJ000 2th 10th of 13 to Rectiving in marken at Newcastle (7) upon 13 to Rectiving in marken at Newcastle (7) upon 15 to 15

4.50 TEENOSO MAIDEN STAKES (DIV II: £3,646; 71) (12 runners)

O PERFECT PAL 90.1 (BF) (Whetcombe Namer) Mes & Relievay (6-10) — N Day 040500 FARKY DESIGN 43 (V) (Mrs V Paris) P Naikher 4-9-5 — M Raberts — 3. KEEN COMPANION 175 (5 Strates) T Naggido 4-9-5 — JD Serith (3) 83 — ARDENT 197 (R Lamb) (5 Benshed 3-8-12 — A McGloine — DURABLE GEORGE (Mrs J Samp) J Bridge 3-8-12 — A McGloine — DURABLE GEORGE (Mrs J Samp) J Bridge 3-8-12 — W Ryan — D March CRUSADER 31 (Mrs 4-Nathorn) 8 Hambury 3-8-12 — W Ryan — 64-5 PRAEDITUS 20 (B Najmorts) 8 Hamburg 3-8-12 — Dane O'Nell Sp. 186-64. TRUNDER 24 (Mrs R Sard) M Stonds 3-8-12 — Dane O'Nell Sp. 186-64. TRUNDER 24 (Mrs R Sard) M Stonds 3-8-12 — D C'Stend - SECRET STRENGTH L'Augment Paris Staff) Laby Hentes 3-8-12 — O'Stend - G. SUCH GOLONESS 163 (Airs 14 O'Stea) R Alexensu 3-8-12 — A Clark — BALFOUR L'ADY (Buckingham Pins, J Toller 3-8-7 — S Sanders — OD MISS MP 4 (W Mann) P Mitchelf 3-8-7 — M Thomp 1 Augment 3-8-13 — M Hoary (3) — S Parathos Repail Bunder, 6-1 Keen Companion. March Cruscher (9-1) Audent 14-1 refers BETTIME 7-3 Practicus, Regal Thunder, 6-1 Keen Companion, March Cruseder, 10-1 Aident, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

PERFECT PAL 311 10th of 13 to Classy Cheef in important at Newborn (1m. good to firm) REGAL important here IMM. Inn 30 TAMICY DESIGNA best after that 5th of 7 to Justinianus in selber here (AW, 6f) Feb 97 KEEN COMPANION 111 3rd of 9 BULDINESS 211 2m of 18 to MAYLANE in malden over course and distance (good to soft). Selection, PRAEDITUS about 121 5th of 15 to Rasha in Selection, PRAEDITUS

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS Rides 42.9 k Darley
32.3 L Detton
27.8 D Hottand
23.3 W Ryan
22.2 S Waltworth Mrs M Reveley A Siewari G Wragg M Presculi

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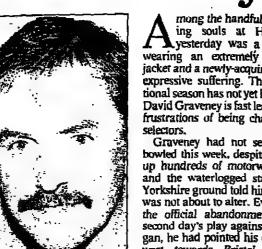




BIR1

# Graveney's new dawn awaits warmer welcome

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Graveney: frustrated

ing souls at Headingley A yesterday was a tall man wearing an extremely old wax jacket and a newly-acquired look of expressive suffering. The interna-tional season has not yet begun, but David Graveney is fast learning the frustrations of being chairman of

Graveney had not seen a ball bowled this week, despite clocking up hundreds of motorway miles. and the waterlogged state of the Yorkshire ground told him his luck was not about to alter. Even before the official abandonment of the second day's play against Glamor-gan, he had pointed his car southwest towards Bristol and the distant hope of cricket.

Three hours later, on arrival at Gloucestershire's match with Hampshire, he knew that his day was fated. "The rain began as I pulled into the car park," Graveney

reported. "I think I shall now retire

for the day."

His fellow selectors, Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch, have also endured wasted journeys this week, as a capricious spring continues to undermine the fixture list. There is nothing we can do but keep turning up. Graveney said. "I am a great believer in listening to people and this has at least given me plenty of time for that."

Graveney, indeed, is reforming the image of the selection process by his accessibility and openness. Along with the England committee chairman, Bob Bennett, he is encouraging the players to feel that they have an audience at management level. He is also consulting widely within the game, canvassing views on pitches, policy and personnel for the series against Australia. On Wednesday, he visited two Test match grounds, Edgbaston and Old Trafford, and he will make

Alan Lee meets the chairman of selectors on his long-distance attempts to find cricket to watch

a point of seeing them all at cross the country a few more times, appropriate times. While it has a commitment to see and being always been English custom to shrink from preparing pitches that could inconvenience the opposition, Graveney has a firm view about the type of surfaces on which his team should play and intends to convey it

to every ground authority.

Whether he will receive much sympathy at Edgbaston, where the priority, after two highly-criticised Test pitches, is simply to make the match last five days, must be questionable.

A week tomorrow, the selectors must choose their first squad of the summer, for the three Texaco starting at Headingley on May 22. Before then, Graveney will crissseen that was not always shared by his immediate predecessor. He must also fit in some surgery on a leg ailment, but it was not the travel nor the operation that brought a frown to his face yesterday, so much as the state of England's

leading players.

The batting, especially, is in a mess, with either form or fitness concerns over every senior player. Chiefly because of this, the selectors may expand their party from the usual 14 to 15. They may also decide that the time is right for some new faces, in which event I expect to see Chris Adams given a chance to fulfill his evident potential at the top of the order.

No one has ever doubted the potential of Mark Ramprakash, either, but his big-match temperament is another matter. He has a champion in Gatting, however, and as he has begun the season prolifically, there is a case for reviving his international career in a one-day environment, where he would have no time to fret and freeze, rather than in the elongated tension of a Test match.

Ramprakash's prospects are rising daily, in direct proportion to the decline of those who toured ahead of him last winter. Graveney shakes his head over the litary of low scores and misadventure that has assailed his established batsmen and his greatest hope is that the finger injury restricting Alec Stewart does not prevent him: keeping wicket, for this would require wholesale reorganisation of

Of the others. Michael Atherton

form. Crawley's scores in the Benson and Hedges Cup are 0, 2, 0 and 0, while Atherton's fortunes were exemplified when he strained a hamstring last week and was run out, blamelessly, when his runner went walkabout at square-leg.

Nasser Hussain has missed several matches with a neck injury and Nick Knight failed yesterday on his comeback from the badly broken hand that he sustained in New Zealand. Graham Thorpe has not yet sparkled and Graeme Hick's aggregate of 94 runs from seven innings is no encouragement towards what would, in any event, be a controversial selection.

The batting places, then, are still to be claimed over the coming week Graveney just hopes to be present when weather and form take a turn for the better, allowing his brow to clear and that wax jacket to be put away for the winter.

**Essex give** 

Randall

lesson in

scoring

BY RICHARD HOBSON FENNER'S (second day of

threel: Essex, with seven first-

innings wickets in hand, are 63 runs behind Cambridge

SHORTLY after tea yesterday.

Cambridge University hit upon an ingenious way to slow down the Essex scoring.

They put Derek Randali in charge of the scoreboard.

With so many passing spec

tators stopping for a quick that and handshake, the con-

centration of the inimitable

Randall inevitably wavered.

Fortunately, the scorer's box is

situated nearby; when Ran-dail, a Cambridge coach, first popped his head round to compare totals, he had inad-

vertently marked Essex five

runs down. Thus was the tone

It mattered little, for Essex

were able to proceed at leisure

against the students attack.

Cambridge are well endowed

on the batting front this sea-

son, as they demonstrated on

Wednesday. Their bowling,

though is sadly lacking and the absence of Tennent

through injury and Janisch to

exam commitments has accen-

Prichard and Robinson both

prospered in compiling a first-

wicket stand of 136. They had

every reason to contemplate

further advances when Ouen-

tin Hughes joined the attack

as the seventh bowler. An

occasional purveyor of off

spin. Jones has featured osten-

sibly as a batsman in his

tuated the weakness.

 $\mathcal{Q} = \{ x \in \mathcal{C} :$ 

set for the session.

University

# Champions made to suffer by Newport

WORCESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 215 runs behind Worcestershire

A SUPERB spell by Phil Newport, the veteran Worcestershire seam bowler, left Leicestershire in a position of rare embarrassment yesterday. Newport took four wickets in 21 balls to help to reduce the county champions to 33 for five in reply to a total of 257. which, on a slow pitch offering pronounced movement for the bowler of medium pace, is looking more imposing the longer the game goes on.

Another frustrating sequence of showers restricted play to 43 overs. When the last, and heaviest, fall of rain brought the players off at 42 for live and unless the weather greatly improves they aught to avoid a first championship defeat since last June. However, if they fail to reach the follow-on target of 108, Worcestershire could yet force

With Haynes and Newport fit again, Worcestershire look a revitalised side. Haynes, who finished unbeaten on 47 after three hours of solid resistance, did not appear in the championship last year and Newport played only five times because of back and Achilles tendon injuries, the latter necessitating an operation. Even in his sixteenth season of county cricket. Newport retains his enthusiasm and, at 34, remains, on his day, as good a traditional English seam bowler as there

He gave away nothing yesterday and struck his initial blow with the first ball after lunch, bringing one back sharply to trap the left-handed Suicliffe leg-before. Two overs later, he produced an immaculate outswinger to locate the edge of Habib's bat and Hick, with his customary case, pouched the catch low to his left at second slip.

better, jagging off the seam and luring Wells into giving Rhodes the thinnest of catches at the wicket. Before he departed. Wells, the acting Leicestershire captain, glared in disbelief at the spot on which the ball pitched.

Johnson prevented the hattrick without confidence, but Newport was not to be denied his wicket for long. Two overs later, he moved the ball back into the left-hander and won his second leg-before decision from the umpire. Ken Palmer.

Shortly after that. Sheriyar. the left-arm seam bowler who was lending Newport excellent support, got in the act by having Maddy caught in the slips, also by Hick. Sheriyar, 23, has always been capable of generating a lively head of steam, but against his former by consistently putting the ball in the right place. Perhaps all he needs to do to turn himself into a really decent bowler is to cut down his extraordinarily long run-up.

Macmillan and Nixon, the last two recognised Leicestershire batsmen, were together when the abandonment came and, in view of the fact that they are without two firstchoice batsmen in Whitaker. their captain, and Smith, it will be a good test of the side's

character today.
The solidity of the Leicestershire batting was one of the features of their title-winning campaign - they only once failed to score more than 250 in the first innings - so the bother they find themselves in here is a relatively new experience. When they last played Worcestershire they achieved their highest total at Grace Road, 638 for eight.

Earlier, Worcestershire added 58 for the loss of their last four wickets. The biggest partnership of the innings, 76 between Haynes and Rhodes. was broken by Johnson, who finished with three wickets. Milins also claimed three and Mullally four. Well as they bowled, they were to be put in His next ball was even the shade by Newport.



Cunliffe, the promising Gloucestershire batsman, deals firmly with a ball from Udal as the hovering close fielders wait for a mistake

## Carefree Lynch provides upbeat tempo

By JAMES ALLEN

BRISTOL (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 173 runs behind Hampshire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE did their best yesterday to inject the sense of urgency that this match had been crying out for. Until they embarked upon their reply to Hamp-shire's total of 316, three runs an over had been a promised land which had looked unreachable.

From the autset. Glaucestershire accepted the need to force the pace, especially as the rain, to which 20 overs were lost, was a constant threat. The same could not be said of the Hampshire bowling, with only Connor among

the faster men having any sort of track record. Renshaw had Trainor taken at short leg, but Wright made serene progress until he was caught in two minds and played on to a short one from Mascarenhas. knowing a decent score had

gone begging. With Lynch entering the fray, there was no danger of a period of retrenchment An airy swish outside the off stump marked his arrival, an edge to the third-man boundwas his first scoring stroke. Thereafter, it was nothing but the sweetness of timing and lordly air that have been the defining features of his batting since his career in county cricket started 20 years ago.

When others might have had their eye on the close and their thoughts on the morrow, he was repeatedly lashing Stephenson to the cover boundary. As the light deteriorated, he pulled Renshaw past square leg for his tenth four, which brought up his half-century. He had needed only 44 balls. Perhaps it was

Cunliffe, who had been more studious, that he was then happy to accept the umpires' offer as the weather closed in. At the start of the day, Gloucestershire needed to dislodge the last four Hampshire batsmen, but they lasted the best part of 90 minutes. Lawrence bellowed encouragement and threw his giant frame full length at mid-off to make one earth-shaking stop. However, when the new ball became available, he man-

aged only three overs with it

before departing with a calf

out of consideration for

tions of his comeback having caught up with him. Largely thanks to Udal, Hampshire were able to crawl

past 300, though no one could accuse him of not trying to be positive. Dropped by Lynch when he made one attacking foray, he fell to Young attempting another. The Tasmanian accepted the return catch above his head with an assured nonchalance. A third wicket, when he found the edge of Renshaw's flashing blade, was no less than he deserved for an economic mixture of swing and seam.

Among the younger Hampshire batsmen, there are some reputations to be cemented this season. Laney has attracted good notices, while Kendall has scored consistently

since making a century for

strain, the cold and the exer- . Oxford in the University Match last year. Here he persevered, a pillar of obduracy for 24 hours while making 47. His departure did little to enliven proceedings, Mascar-enhas soon offering the tamest of chances to give Smith a fourth wicket.

in the morning rain seemed likely to play a leading role on three occasions before retreating to the wings. Twice the umpires headed for the pavilion before doing an about-turn almost immediate ly. By this time, though, the covers were on their way out and some of the players had reached the dressing room. Others had stayed out in the middle, hands on hips, reluctant to leave their posts. The county grounds of England are the natural habitat of such

to ground, but, before the close,

Knight, who, after 40 minutes

batting in the morning, had enough

confidence in the finger that he broke while on tour with England to

take up position at short leg, helped

Brown to a second wicket by

Powell, Welch and Brown were

the burly Patel's har-trick victims

and it much increased the bowler's

pleasure that, having played for

Warwickshire second XI in 1992, all

three were erstwhile team-mates.

He has played for five other county

second teams, among them Middle-

sex and Surrey. He needed help for

only one, when Powell padded up to

a ball that pitched on his off stump

Celebrations for that were cut

short by the wicket falling to the last

ball of an over, but delight was unconfined when Weich was

bowled off stump by the first ball of

and would have hit the middle.

catching Lightfoot, a left-hander.

appearances for Durham's second team. He had bowled John Snow, 55, the former Sussex and England last bowler, has been elected to the Sussex committee, along with John Spencer, his former county teammate, and four members of the Sussex 2000 Action Group assembled by Tony Pigott, the chief executive -Richard Barrow, Charles

Frewin, Don Trangmar and

Roger Dakin.

only four overs this season until yesterday, but can expect longer spells for the remain-der of his first year as an undergraduate after claiming a wicket in each of his first two overs to peg back the visitors. Prichard appeared a certainty to record his second hundred in four days, adding to his 114 in the Benson and Hedges Cup success against Somerset on Monday. He was dropped by Churton, the wicketkeeper, on nine, but reached his half-century with a towering pull off Dawson and had advanced to 72 when

Will House at mid-wicker accepted a sharp, low catch. Robinson needed time at the crease after a slow start to the season. He settled quickly, cut powerfully and outscored his captain, but enjoyed less of the strike after reaching 50 and lost his fluency. Immediately after tea, he gave a hard

return catch to Hughes. Easy, this bowling lark. Hughes might have considered. Well, not always. There is a downside to the occupation and the golden arm was soon to wilt under an onslaught from Danny Law. Hughes went for 22 runs in

his last two overs. To add to his five wickets on the first day, Law is in a position to post another landmark today when he resumes on 39. But for the wretched weather, which lopped 175 minutes off play, he might hundred of his career already. Though he, like Prichard, was fortunate to survive a dropped catch early in his innings. Nobody was more disappoint-

## Speight keeps up good work

ALAN KNOTT has a new protegé. Or. at least, another pupil. Martin Speight, who joined the exodus from Hove specifically to enhance his career with Durham, has spent much of the early part of the season studying hours of videotapes and poring over the advice that he has been given by the greatest of wicketkeepers. He is determined to look the part.

Speight's decision to leave Sussex was not, he said, connected with the shenanigans at the club last season, although he believes that the stress he suffered over his deteriorating relationship with the committee led to his illness, ME, which resulted in him missing the entire season of 1995. Quite simply, he wanted to keep wicket and came to the realisation that he was not going to take Peter Moore's place.

"I felt at the end of 1994 that, if I was ever going to go on an England A tour. I would have done so by then. I did not enjoy my cricket last year and thought that if I could keep wicker and bat as well as I had been doing, I would have greater opportunities. And I was 29, engaged and had just bought a house, I felt I had to earn more money," Speight said.

"Even then, to make the decision to leave was a hard one. It is a shame the upheaval at Hove did not happen two years ago, because

Sussex would have been a successful side by now. But I felt underrated by the chairman and committee and they were not paying the young players what I thought they should have been receiving.

Speight had been to Durham University (and gained a decent degree: a 2:1 in archeology/ancient history). Even so, the prognostications were not good. Durham had taken on four former students -James Boiling, Graeme Fowler, Simon Hughes and Jon Longley and none could be said to have been a success. Yet he has begun the season competently. Martin has worked hard at his keeping and done well," Norman Gifford, the



Speight ambitious

THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF

Durham coach, said, "I was with him for most of his career with Sussex and knew he would add to

In his II years with Sussex. Speight gained a reputation for attacking the bowling from the very start of an innings in limited-overs cricket. His half-century in the highscoring NatWest Trophy final of 1993 was a memorable piece of hitting. He expects to but this season at No 5 or No 6 in championship matches, having replaced Chris Scott and David Ligertwood, and anywhere in the order in the oneday game.

It is, though, his wicketkeeping that concerns him. Knott came to coach him at his request. "Alan took 12 hours of film of me and we did a great deal of work on one-handed diving catches. He argued that I would not always reach the ball two-handed at full stretch. He taught me not to let my right hip drop away."

Speight said. "Above all, Alan is very positive and David Boon, my new captain at Durham, has been telling me that Ian Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper, was not particularly good when he started but worked tremendously hard at his game. I have set myself a target of 1,000 runs and keeping wicket well this season. I think that in the one-day competitions. Durham will surprise a few people."

## Smith and Giles edge out Patel

fatal. Shortly after tea, Smith, watched by his father, M.J.K., who

BY JOHN THICKNESSE

OXFORD (second day of three): Oxford University, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 147 runs behind Warwickshire

CHETAN PATEL, a post-graduate taking a diploma in social sciences, set the scene for what was nearly a great day for Oxford cricket with the University's first hat-trick since 1967. Sadly for him and his teammates, however, Ashley Giles and Neil Smith, batting No s 8 and 9 for Warwickshire, had failed to read the

When Smith took guard 13 minutes before tea. with Warwickshire 174 for seven, it looked as though Oxford were about to bowl out a county for the first time since 1994. So they might have, and deservedly, if in the next over an edge by Giles had been hauled down by second slip instead of whistling a foot over Byron Byrne's head and racing to the boundary.

Giles, 13 then, survived a similarly testing chance at 27, when Mark Wagh at first slip could only parry another rapid edge. Oxford would not have been flattered had Warwickshire been all out by then, nor the county in any way disgraced, so often had Patel, James Averis and Chris Battarbee passed defensive bats with swing and seam, But Giles's second life proved

captained Oxford in 1956, lashed 18 off five balls from Battarbee and swung the game. When Giles followed his example, they added 123 in 57 minutes and left the University in disarray. When Nick Knight made his declaration, 168 ahead, Smith had taken only 44 balls to score 55, which contained eight fours and a six. Deflated as Oxford were, it was

little surprise when, within two overs of their second innings starting, they were one for two. Welch and Brown picking up their openers. Rain cut 15 minutes from their survival time and one chance went



Brown: third victim

the next, whereupon Patel located Brown's edge for Wagh to complete the hat-trick with a sharp catch low to his right two-handed at first slip. Seeing it pouched, Patel, 25, stretched his follow-through into a

jubilant curve between his four-man slip field, where he was duly smothered by his team-mates. It was the third har-trick of his life, the previous ones coming for Hornsey and Loughborough, and the match ball will join its fellows on his mantelpiece.

A SEMENTS. MACH Secret ment to the to bed and out asses MAR.

r to receivership two years ago, of cases

ed than Randall when bad light terminated proceedings.

# Brown shines in the murk for Middlesex

but not many others will. Jarvis and Robinson, the two old sweats, bowled rather

bener then their figures sug-

gest. Otherwise, it was woeful

One passage of play in mid-afternoon seemed almost sur-

tonshire innings on the abbre-

six without any discernible

movement of the feet when he

ran in to take the catch on his

-Then Caddick went to work

pads and Boswell pinned leg-

before and, with Rose getting

Ripley leg-before in between,

Northamptonshire had lost

Akram gave the first hint

that he was not going to take

this lying down by making 20

out of 27 for the last wicket

before Caddick ended the

innings by forcing Taylor to

play on and, in doing so, took his final figures to six for

There were only 25 overs

remaining when Somerset began their innings and 14 of

them were lost to further rain.

but there was still time

enough for Akram to show

that he has the makings of a

worthy successor to Curtly

Ambrose. Bowling fast and straight, he had Lathwell

caught at second slip,

Trescothick at first slip and

bowled the promoted Kerr to

leave Caddick to complete his

day's work by seeing out the

last few deliveries as a second

five wickets for 24.

with the ball Snape was

stuff, absolutely dreadful.

LORD'S (second day of four): Sussex, with seven first-in-

runs behind Middlesex MIDDLESEX could not have had a much better day than this if they had fallen to their knees and offered a hearsfelt. wish to mighty love. After taking their score from 337 for five overnight to a declaration shortly before tea of 490 for nine, they cut through the soft underbelly of the Sussex batting to give themselves an excellent chance of winning the match — even if rain and bad light continue to

nings wickets in hand, are 446

The murky light that brought play to a close at 5.25pm provided an apt commentary on the Sussex performance. They have played abominably. Some of the fielding yesterday, had it been witnessed on a school field, would have prompted any reputable master to say: "If you're going to mess about, you may as well go home. You're wasting everybody's

To think that Peter Moores, on winning the toss, asked Middlesex to bat. He may be wet behind the ears where

NORTHAMPTON (second

IT WAS sometimes difficult to

formation dancing team or a

cricket side as they went

through the Dermot Reeve

exercise manual in their at-

tempts to keep out the cold at

but not when Andrew

For him, cricket will always

be a desperately serious busi-

ness and his determination to

keep himself in the forefront

of the England selectors

thoughts was plain to see as

he took four for 22 in 11.2 overs

to cut down Northampton-

shire from their overnight 126

Everything is relative, of

course, and Mohammad

Akram, playing in his first

Northampton, was quick to

suggest that anything an Eng-

land fast bowler could do, a

Pakistani could do better by

claiming three wickets at a

cost of 11 runs in his 5.2 overs

to leave Somerset reeling at 23

for three when bad light

ended play. First things first, however.

Play did not get under way until mid-afternoon and

Caddick was soon in the thick

of the action. Curran, who

had sustained the Northamp-

championship match

for four to 185 all out.

Caddick was bowling

Caddick's resolve

sustains Somerset

BY PAT GIBSON

day of four: Somerset, with seven first innings wickets in uncomplicated innings of 65, hand, are 162 runs behind at Northamptonshire viated first day with his uncomplicated innings of 65, had just thumped Rose straight back over his head for

teil whether Somerset were a slashed him to deep back-formation dancing team or a ward point, where Caddick

cannot afford to make many real. As Angus Fraser, relish more mistakes on this scale. ing his role of tailend Charlie. There is no malice in this bashed his way to 35 from 39 pitch, as Middlesex proved by balls, two fire appliances pulled up behind the Warner batting through five sessions. Stand to investigate a minor Amer Khan, who took the four wickets to fall yesterday, giving him five in an innings "domestic" and spectators were asked to leave the stand. for the first time in his career, It had to happen the day after MCC members had voted to will look back with satisfaction on the Middlesex innings, ban smoking in the Long

Like most fast bowlers, Fraser loves a good bat and he won't have many better opportunities than the one he enjoyed yesterday. In 12 hectic overs, he helped Keith Brown to add 78 for the ninth wicker and, after he was bowled, essaying a rustic "cow" shot. Sussex had to endure five overs of Tufnell before Mike Gatting decided it was time

his bowlers had a go, In no time at all, the Sussex batsmen revealed that, however mediocre their bowlers. they can perform just as poorly. By the time he took his sweater, Jamie Hewitt, bowling from the Nursery End. had taken three wickets to leave Sussex in the mire. Greenfield was leg-before, Taylor caught behind and Peirce held at point by a scowling Tutnell, who walked, mincingly, halfway to St John's Wood station to get the sting of the stroke out of his

Taylor's dismissal maintained Brown's involvement in the match. Unbeaten on 72 overnight, the Middlesex wicketkeeper was still there when the declaration came, having doubled his score. He batted for 18 minutes short of six hours - in other words, the better part of a day - for the thirteenth hundred of his firstclass career. His innings included 14 fours, one of them

all run, and a six. Brown, who made his debut in 1984, is one of those cricketers people can take for granted. He served a long apprenticeship, as stumpers often do, behind Paul Downton and, Farbrace from Kent, Brown's first-team opportunities were not immediately apparent.

Yet he put his head down made his runs and has developed into a handy wicketkeeper-batsman who is trusted to hold down the No 6 spot. At Middlesex, who have always selected five bowlers in their teams on the reasonable assumption that to win games you normally have to take 20 wickets in a match, that is an exposed position and Brown has paid his way.

Desmond Quite what Haynes made of his team's inadequacy is not hard to imagine. The Sussex coach spent many a happy hour on this ground as a distinguished overseas player for Middlesex. His former county are not the force they were, although people who infer too much from their slow start to the season do so at their peril. But the Sussex cricket in this match has made them look like kings.



# Dressage changes give Muir flying start

Badminton record. She was

sixth at her first attempt in

1988 on Barnabus Brown, and

fourth two years later. Al-though Archie Brown had

nine months off last year after

injuring a fetlock, he has

returned fitter than ever with a

new slimline look after putting

"hours" on the horse

"He's not a thoroughbred

and he struggles to make the

time on the cross country, so

we've got him as lean as possible." Muir, the daughter

of a Yorkshire farmer, said

The 42-mile course this year

holds no particular fears for

her. "It's a lovely course which

he should like," she said.

By JENNY MACARTHUR DAVID O'CONNOR, of the United States, riding the Irish-bred Custom Made, shares the overnight lead with Linda Algotsson, of Sweden, on her Olympic horse, Lafayett, after a cold and wintry first day of dressage at the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse

Trials. The best British performances came from Paddy Muir, on Archie Brown, on which she was ninth last year, and Daisy Dick, on Headley Bravo, who are lying in third and fourth places - separated by 0.2 of a mark. On a day of mostly indifferent perfor-mances — not helped by the blustery weather and a new, more demanding test, which included flying changes for the first time - these four riders were the only ones to

achieve a score in the 40s.

ia, will not be easy to dislodge. Custom Made, a 12-year-old gelding, was third last year and lifth in the Olympic Games individual contest in Atlanta. A member of the Mark Phillips-trained Olympic silver medal-winning team Atlanta, on Gilledge, O'Connor is undaunted Hugh Thomas's course for the cross country tomorrow. "It's

big — but it's fair and it should suit my horse," he said. Although Algotsson. 25, is competing at Badminton for the first time, the 16-year-old Lafayett is a noted crosscountry performer. They had a clear round in Atlanta and were in the lead after the cross country at Luhmuhlen in Germany last year. However. they are less reliable in the showjumping phase. Muir, who produced copy-

Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion. who has some catching up to do after finishing joint-seventh on Chester-field; is less confident. "It's a book flying changes during good course which tests everything, but it's very technical, particularly around the Vicarage Vee, and there are loads of places where you could make a mistake." he said.

Andrew Hoy, a member of Australia's Olympic gold medal-winning team, who is lying fifth on the brilliant Darien Powers, said that the course "should not be under-

On a day when Thomas, the director of the event, confidently predicted that nobody outside the top three after the

lan Stark and Leslie Law. the only riders to have two horses, are in 20th and 38th place, on Arakui and Capitano, respectively, after unsettled tests. Both ride their better horses - Stanwick Ghost and New Flavour today. Other fancied riders competing today include Mary King, of Great Britain, Mark Todd, of New Zealand.

the defending champion, and

Vaughn Jefferis, the world

or desired

ROWING

## Haining back to defend title

By MIKE ROSEWELL

PETER HAINING, of Scotland, Britain's Olympic sculler, will be aiming to win his fourth Wingfield Sculls title from Putney to Mortlake today. Haining, 35, will com-pete despite still suffering from a virus that forced him to miss the opportunity to defend

his Scullers Head crown. Haining, who is studying sports science at Roehampton Institute, said: "What I really need is two weeks in a hor climate, but, being a student and having the title defence in

mind, I'm not going to get it." Two of his regular international rivals - Guy Pooley, the winner in 1992, and the 1992 Olympic sculler, Wade Hall-

Worcestershire v

Leicestershire

MORCESTER (second day of lour)

eicesterstire, with live tirst-innings rickets in hand, are 215 runs behind

WORCESTERSHIRE: First livings

Craggs, who won in 1993 -will not be testing Haining, although Hall-Craggs will be the umpire in an event that dates back to 1830.

Haining's five opponents are not without pedigree. Martin Kettle took the Scullers Head title and, in Haining's opinion. "has the makings of a good Wingfield Sculler". The lightweight, Ian Watson, an international rower since 1992, is in the field, as is Tom Gale, who was fifth in the Scullers Head and is a club colleague of Kettle's.

Alex Wake, who is well up in international sculling rankings this year and was second behind Greg Searle in

LEICESTERSHIRE: First innings

recent trials in Belgium, suffered from cramp in the Scullers Head, but the former Great Britain coxswain, Alan inns, said: "When he gets it right, he gets it very, very

right."
The line-up is completed by Haining's fellow Scotsman. David Partullo, of Aberdeen. Pattullo, the Scottish champion, finished ninth in the Scullers Head and is described by Haining as "a big, fit, tough northerner who does not mind mixing

WINGPELD SCULLS, P. Haming (Aurol, Kensington) on Surrey station. I Watson (London), A. Water (Televis, Scullers), M. Kattle (Lucens Tower). T. Gale (Queens Tower), D. Pattulto (Abtrideen), on Middle-ton (Little).

### dressage was likely to win, champion. **FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS** The companies listed have registered their golf day for the 1997 Challenge. The top four individua scorers on the day will form the company team igible to qualify for a regional final.

### Date Company name Players Venue FALKIRK TRYST 9 MAY CITROEN FINANCE 25 GUARDIAN INSURANCE HAYDOCK PARK 9 MAY 30 METABRASIVE LIMITED YAM P ENVILLE 9 MAY MS SELECTION WEST HOLL 20 9 MAY SINCLAIR ROCHE & WILDERNESSE 30 TEMPERLEY 9 MAY **SWALE CHAMBER** 50 IRISH ROAD MOTORS LTD 10 MAY STRABANE 24 FLEMING INVESTMENT 50 11 MAY THE BELFRY MANGEMENT ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND CHELSFIELD LAKES T.C.M. SPOT DESK I AGNEW - MERCEDES BENZ CLANDEBOYE 12 MAY RICHARDSONS INTERIORS 59 ORMEAU 12 MAY SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY ROCHDALE 21 13 MAY DOW CHEMICAL COLTD WELCOME HOTEL 30 LANTERN ENGINEERING I MATTER SBJ STEPHENSON LIMITED THE RIDGE 13 MAY THAMES WATER PLC SANDFORD SPRINGS 50 CLERICAL MEDICAL BEEDLES LAKE (EAST MIDLANDS) ROYAL MID SURREY HILL PRICE DAVISON LTD 30 14 MAY KINNARPS UK LTD HARLEYFORD 40 14 WAY LAING HOMES LIMITED THE WARWICKSHIRE 76 TA MAY MACE & JONES HESWALL GRUNDY KERSHAW 14 MAY WEATHERALL GREEN & SMITH CROHAM HURST 70 15 MA ADHESIVE & WELLINGSOROUGH 50 DISPLAY PRODUCTS 15 MAY ELECTROLUX GROUP THE K CLUB 799 (IRELAND) LTD 15 MAY FORBES & COMPANY TEMPLE 75 MAY GRAHAM TATFORD & COLTO ROTH EY PARK 46 HOTEL & CC 15 MAY LONDON METAL EXCHANGE SUNDRIDGE PARK AR MANCHESTER PUBLICITY 15 MAY WILMSLOW 120 SINGER & FRIEDLANDER 15 MAY CASTLETOWN 48 ISLE OF MAN) LTD 15 MAY **UPM KYMMENE LIMITED** WELWYN GARDEN CITY 15 MAY **VOLCLAY LUMITED** BREADSALL PRIORY 30 HASSOCKS 16 MAY BPC BESPOKE ENVELOPES LTD TRACY PARK 16 MAY CONOCO (JET) LTD LEAMINGTON COUNTY 36 H M LAND REGISTRY PIKE RILLS 112 HANCOCKS HOLDINGS LTD 16 MAY ROTHLEY PARK 18 MAY **ICI POLYURETHANES** OAKDALE (HARROGATE) 24 15 MAY KVAERNER DIL & GAS LTD. FOXHILLS 78 MCGREGOR **DUKES DENE** 60 **BOYALL ASSOCIATES** THE CHASE MANKATTAN BANK OLD THORMS 16 MAY 55

Britannic Assurance county championship Gloucestershire v

Hampshire BRISTOL (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 173 runs behind Hamoshire

HAMPSHIRE: First innings A L Hayden low b Smith ..... Renshaw c Russell b Young ... 14 Extras (b 9, w 2, nb 6) ..... Total (118,3 overs) ....

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-63, 3-64, 4-147, 5-169, 6-195, 7-272, 8-283, 9-297. SOWLING: Smith 28-8-61-4; Lawrence 18-7-78-1; Young 26-3-11-43-3; Ball 22-8-3-9; Allayne 14-4-47-1; Hancock 10-2-30-1 GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First smings

Total (2 wkts, 44.4 overs) \_\_\_\_\_143 "M W Alleyns, S Young, th C Russell, T H C Hancock, M C J Ball, D V Lawrence and A M Smith to bat FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-72 BOWLING: Connor 14-3-31-0, Ren 4-0-27-1, Mascarenhas 8-1-28-1, Udal

6-0-22-0. Stephenson 9-1-35-0 Bonus points Gloucestershipe 4 Hamp Umpres: G I Burgess and R A White

Middlesex v Sussex LORD'S (second day of four) Sussex, with seven first-immings wickets in hand, are 446 n.ars behand Middlesex. MATCH ESEX: First Innings

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS P E Wellings o Drakes b Khan R L Johnson o Drakes b Khan J P Hewitt o Greenfield b Khan Total (9 wids dec) ...... Score at 120 overs: 389-6

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-24, 2-63, 3-96, 4-185, 5-321, 6-363, 7-389, 8-390, 8-468. BOWLING: Jarvis 39.5-8-125-1; Drakes 6-1-21-0; Robinson 30-7-87-1; Newell 9-2-35-1; Khan 37-5-137-5; Greenheld 1-0-15-0; Athey 6-0-17-0; Petros 7-0-22-0; SUSSEX: First thrings

C W J Athey not out Total (3 wids, 20.3 overs) ...... K Newell, \*†P Moores, V C Drakes, P W Janvis, M A Robinson and A A Khan to

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-26, 3-31 BOWLING: Frager 7-3-11-0, Hewit 9-3-26-3; Johnson 3-3-0-7-0; Kallis 1-1-0-0 Bonus points. Middlesex 5 Sussex 2 Umpires: V A Holder and J H Hampshire.

Northamptonshire v Somerset NORTHAMPTON (second day of lour). Somersel, with seven first-innings wick-els in hand, are 162 runs behind

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First havings R R Montgomerie c Trescothick b Shine M 8 Loye c Bowler b Ceddick "R J Bailey c Turner b Shine K M Curran c Caddick b Rose L Penberthy b Caddick ...... 3.1 Canel b Caddick ...... J N Snape Ibw b Caddick
10 Ripley Ibw b Rose
J P Taylor b Caddick
S A J Boswell Ibw b Caddick Mohammad Akram not out ....... Edres (5 4, to 6, no 5) ...... Total (55.2 overs) .....

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-25, 3-64, 4-116, 5-134, 5-155, 7-156, 8-156, 9-158

BOWLING: Caddick 242-665-6, Shine 7-2-29-2; Rose 20-5-60-2; Ahmed 4-1-21-0.

Marco of the group had tiz | 687 5t. the mass costs of | hillion under management. | 7 op to 75p.

N Lattwell a Montgomene R Caddick not out ... Total (3 wkts, 10.2 overs)

M Burns, P C L Holloway, †R J Turner, G D Rose, Mustriaq Ahmed and K J Shine FALL OF WICKETS 1-8, 2-13, 3-19. BOWLING Mohammad Akram 52-2-11-3: Taylor 5-1-12-0 Bonus points' Northamptonshire 1 Somersel 4

Umpires, TE Jesty and B J Meyer. No play yesterday

WORCESTERSHITE: First from
TS Curits flow b Millins
W P C Weston c Millins b Mullathy
G A Hick Ibw b Millins
K R Spiring c Maddy b Johnson
"T M Moody c Nitron b Johnson
"T M Moody c Nitron b Johnson
"S J Rhodes c Nitron b Johnson
IS J Rhodes c Nitron b Johnson
P J Newport b Mullathy
R J Chapman c Dakin b Multathy
A Shertyar c Dakin b Multath
Extras (b 6, b 8, w 6, nb 20)

Extras (b 6, lb 8, w 6, nb 20) Total (88.2 overs) ...... FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-22, 3-36, 4-60, 5-109, 8-131, 7-207, 8-232, Derby: Derbyshire v Surrey; Hertlepool; Notitinghamshire 170 (C M Tolley 54; A Walker 7 for 56), Durham 116-3; Heatlingley: Glamorgan 213-1 (S P James 101 not out, H Morris 55) v Yorkshire. SCAULING: Millns 18.2-6-53-3, Mulatly 28-3-86-4; Brimson 8-4-20-0; Johnson 21-4-61-3; Wells 6-3-10-0; Delan 6-1-8-0; Maddy 1-0-5-0.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET Britannic Assurance county chempionship 11 0, third day of four 104 overs minimum DERBY: Derbyshire v Surrey HARTLEPOOL: Durham v

Notinghamshire BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Hampshire LORD'S: Middlesex v Sussex NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Somersel WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Leicestershire HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Glamorgan University matches

THE PARKS: Oxford University v SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (seconday of Wee): Cheinstond: Essex Durhenn, Persypridd: Glamorgan v Yorkshire. Southampion: Hampiane Whorospiershire. Leicester: Leicestershire

FEMILER'S: Cambridge University

FOOTBALL.

lack-off 730 NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE John O'Hara League Cup: Final re Burgess HB v Wick

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League Wigan v London (7 30) . Second division Lancashire Lynx v Leigh (7 30) .... OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Badmirton Horse Trials. GOLF: Open (at The Oxfordshire SPEEDWAY: Bitte League: Bolle Vue v Pools (7.30). Peterborough v Coventry (7.30) Premier League Cup: Edmourgh v Sheffled: (7.30) Premier League: Arena Essex v Newport (8.0): Oddord v Hull

D L Maddy c Hick to Sherryat I J Sutcliffe Ibw to Newport A Habit c Hick to Newport l J Wells a Rhodes b Newbort C Johnson Ibw b Newbort G I Macmillen not out †P A Noton not out Extras (lb) 2) Total (5 wids, 24.5 overs) D.J. Milins, J.M. Dalon, A.D. Mulially and M.

FALL OF WICKETS, 1-13, 2-21, 3-21, 4-27, 5-33 BOWLING Sherryar 12-5-20-1 Bonus points: Viorcestershire Umpires. J W Holder and K E Palmet University matches

Cambridge University v FENNER'S (second day of three) Essex, with seven first-innings wickels it hand, are 63 runs behind Cambridge

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First In nings 285 for 9 dec (A Singh 134 E T Smith 72, D R Law 5 for 93) ESSEX: First Innings \*P J Prichard c House b Hughes D D J Robinson c and b Hughes. A P Grayson c House b Freeh .

DR Law not out. AJE Hibbert not out Extras (0 3, to 1, w 2) Total (3 wids) ..... S D Peters, †B J Hyam, D G Wilson, G R Napier, S J W Andrew and P M Such to hel FALL OF WICKETS 1-136, 2-145, 3-80WLING: P S Jones 8-1-31-0. How 8.3-2-19-0. Dawson 7-1-26-0. House 4-0-21-0. R O Jones 6-1-20-0. Freeth 16-3-48-1. Hughes 13 1-3-53-2. Umpires 5 Dudleston and M k Reed.

> Oxford University v Warwickshire

THE PARKS (second day of three) Colord University, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 147 runs behind Warwickshae OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings

Second imnings 'M A Wagh b Welch C G R Lightfoot c Knight b Brown B.W Byrne not out †A P Scrin not out Extras (b 2, lb 5, nb 4) FALL OF WICKETS 1-1, 2-1, 3-6 BCWLING Welch 6-3-4-1, Brown 6-2-

WARWICKSHIRE: First innings "N V Kright & Buchanan b Battarbee 12
W G Khan c Wagh b Averts 43
D L Hemp b Battarbee 51
D P Ostler Ibw b Averts 51
M J Powell Ibw b Patel 20
G Welch b Patel 0
R Brown c Wagh b Patel 69
A F Gites not out A F Gues not out Extras (b 9, b 9, w 2, nb 22) .

Total (7 wids dec) ... .. 297 1T Frost and M D Edmond did not bat FALL OF WICKETS 1-39, 2-57, 3-71, 4-121, 5-125, 6-125, 7-174 BOWLING: Avers 22 5-97-2, Parel 19-2-78-3; Battarbee 19-4-72-2; Wagh 6-1-18-0; Hudson 2-0-14-0 Umpires, A.G.T. Whitehead and P. Willey

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (Inst day of three: Chelmstord: Essex 111, Durham 323-1 (S Hutton 144 not out, J A Daley 125 not out) Pontypridd: Glamor-gan 283-4 (W.L.Law 76, M.J.Powell 91 not out) v Yorkshire Southampton: Worcestershire 306 (D Dawldrs 83, J N Bowli 3-35), Hampshire 79-3 Lelicaster, Lelicestershire 83-1 v. Kent, Trent Bridge: Notinghamshire 188-6 (G E Welton 93 not out) v Lancashre, Taunton:
Gloucastershire 407-9 dec (M Windows
92. R Dawson 76, M Coonibes 72),
Somerset 24-0, The Oval: Surrey 406-9
(J A Knott 99, P C Holhoales 88, R W
Navel 55, J D Raspitte 53) v Detryshire Eastbourne: Nonhampionshire 377-7 der (D J Sales 115 not out, T C Walton 55, D J Roberts 51), Susser 30-0 (C J But 4-61)

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Ashvite Coll 166, Woochouse Grave 98-6; Chellen-ham 208-5, Hereland Cathedral School 149; Emanuel 98, RGS Guildford 100-1. 149; Emanue so, Nos Custotto III; Felsted 160, Bishop's Stortford II; Haberdashers' Aske's 180-4 dec, Incognit 72-3; MCC 158, Chettenhand 159-6, Merchant Taylors', Northwood 214-3 dec, Watsons GS 148-2; Radley 754-6 Challomitem 181, 8 Section 175. 254-6, Cheltenham 151-8, Seatord 175-8, MCC 213-4, Wellingborough 144, Ouncle 95-7

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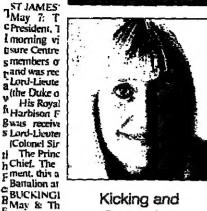
National Final

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no nwoda SK sports

**Marriott** 

Wednesday hung out to dry after East End sponge bath



E Elizabeth Ti

W present toda si London SW

Kicking and Screaming

t West Ham United's stadium. Upton fi Africa in 19. Park, when a player requires medical attention, a very bizarre messas Capsain age is played on the murky tl Guard of the multi-screen scoreboard. A C Gentlemen: speech-bubble appears, with en from The Que curly handwriting inside. It The Lord | appears to date from 1952. "Oh no, a man is down," it

au his appoints by Queen's Bo. h men of the Strom Her finally flust as the injured nisver is hopping off to the player is hopping off to the The Lard dressing-rooms) comes the last G Whitty and bit: This looks like a job for

pi were receive ... SUPER SPONGE!" At their appoin which point an animated Waiting to F sponge with arms and legs
The Bare (reminiscent of Ted Rogers's or Ribbleton an treminiscent of Ted Rogers's of Poterney Dusty Bin) whirls on the A The Queen screen like a superhero.

Her Majesty mers fans that they still take Mr Geon themselves so seriously with tu received by Super Sponge as their talisex appointment w Household man. Other teams have Eric w handed to hi. Cantona and Matt Le Tissier. Mr Thom and the Hammers have this received by little bendy fellow who makes w. appointment bath-time fun-time. However. handed to his water a sign of the usual floppy wetness was on show last Mrs Janer wemess was on snow last received by Saturday when West Ham appointment bear Sheffield Wednesday by a if the House phenomenal 5-1. It made you esty handed wonder: has the big spongy

one had his day? The Ri Hon For Hartson leapt and received by Kitson stormed and Wednes-Mr Charle day were scared to death. How ceived by He weird to come all the way from Queen upon it ness, and find them running Mr Andrew H straight at you in warpaint The followin famous for its fatal porous-S' Mr Colin Boy, straight at you in warpaint Gi Sculandi, Mr ("Aaaagh!") like commandos to (Minister of : fresh from bayonet training. Mr Geoffrey The Owls fans sang lustily all fai Primarolo MI aftermoon, but, for obvious ch Treasury). M empirical reasons, "You'll nevyo (Economic Sex er beat Des Walker" was

Sv thin Michael abandoned fairly early on. on Hume Office). It was all to do with relega-State. Foreign astorushing last-minute herofin tiffice). Mr ism. At the bottom of the . Premiership, the bad or lazy teams now scramble over each other like toads in a jar -and 1 find myself playing God deciding which ones I'll allow to 20

The Queen, i down. Nottingham Forest Duke of Edin would have been my first Garden of wholes as it have set that Aberian, at It choice, as it happens; so their of Euro Enterpriearly surrender is fine by me. No 11,05; and will But what about the other

at Ljantrisant

The Duke of

BMDS:

a sister Alexande

GRANVILLE -

ELIDGE - On M. (Dés Contagn

to Natasha (

ARKIN SHE Toesday Ma-and Danny, Daniel

and Sim Charlotte

thi



Joy unconfined for Hartson, right, and Kitson as they celebrate their goalscoring double act. Photograph: Allsport

add much to the gaiety of nations, although of course Gordon Strachan's Rumpelstiltskin entertainment value should not be overlooked. Sunderland's only got Chris Waddle.

On the other hand, Southampion must stay up, as must Middlesbrough and Leicester. Sentiment is not entirely absent from these judgments. incidentally. (Unchecked prejudice likewise plays a part.)

But my point is, until last Saturday, I'd most certainly have put West Ham on my trapdoor list, and now I'm not so sure. They're playing bril-liantly," I yelled to my friend, Robert, beside me in the visitors' stand. "Did you see how Hartson jumped just now? Like a salmon leaping up a waterfall! I've never seen anything like it!"

Robert looked glum. As an Owls fan, he was having a very bad afternoon. "I'll tell you one thing." he finally pronounced on West Ham: "They're not as foreign as they're cracked up to be." In which surreal verdict (born of a certain bitterness) there was admittedly great truth.

Mainly, the Owls fans just

winced under the violence of each successive blow that in the first ten minutes and it was clear that, barring an unscheduled evacuation of the ground (or an earthquake), the one-sided scoring trend was unstroppable. Wednesday were just hapless witnesses to their own defeat.

I mentioned once before in this column the horrible confluence of images occurring when Hammers beat Owls and on this occasion the metaphor was especially compelling. A frenzied attack was

what police would call this.

And afterwards, just a few

grey feathers blew pathetically

across the pitch. A bit of claw,

a bit of beak. A mournful.

his grief and I insensitively cheered the West Ham goals

("Five! This is incredible!"), the

majority of Wednesday fans

were maintaining a level of

denial quite unknown outside

chanted, over and over. Clap,

clap barmyarmy: clap, clap.

While Robert wrestled with

dying twit-twoo.

of football crowds.

'Barmvarmv.'

much longer, it was on the cards that the stand would collapse. Owls fans around us also particularly enjoyed yelling "Cheat" at young Rio Ferdinand, after David Hirst was sent off — though I'll

logic of the "cheat" accusation.

Personally, I just thought that

since Hirst is laid up with

plucky, and continued unbro-

ken in the second half for

something like 20 minutes.

' "You'll never beat Des Walker" was abandoned fairly early on' admit I did never quite see the

مكذا من الاصل

injury most of the time, the idea of sending him off when fit - was stupid. Of course, since Saturday we've had even more results. and I've spent even more time adding hypothetical ones and threes and forgetting the number I first thought of. Like an early talent for darts, an interest in football ought to make all little boys good at does. Personally, however, I've only just worked out why there are 38 games in a season. There is nothing cabbalistic about the digits. It's just 19 opponents multiplied by two. Tch. What a blind, overelaborate ninny I have been.

Also since Saturday, of course, Manchester United have become champions. And it's all over, just like that. I can't believe it. "A shame you

bit of icing on the cake.

But I still don't understand how the champions generate a proper spirit of celebration when their win results from such bathos as Newcastle not winning and Liverpool losing (or whatever it was). It lacks occasion. "I see we've won, then." Man U fans must have sighed pleasantly after Tuesday night's results. They stood "So. Right. Well. See you in the

Betts will not be the only

link with a glorious past if

shareholders, who want to depose Jack Robinson, the

chairman, and Tom Rathbone, a director, get their way at a special meeting on May 20. Phil Clarke, who left

Wigan with Betts in 1995 but

### TELEVISION CHOICE

## And here's one made earlier

Blue Peter BBC1, 5.10pm

Following hard on the 40th anniversary celebrations for The Sky At Night comes a landmark in the history of another show which started in the 1950s and is still flourishing. Blue Peuer went on air in 1958, the year after Patrick. Moore's first date with the stars, and this afternoon's edition is number 3,000. Such longevity is retort enough to those ungaliant souls who have mocked Blue Peter over the years for the relentless jollity of its presentation and ability to find the most unlikely uses for discarded yoghurt pots. But the series has changed as society has changed, as today's programme will demonstrate. Two former presenters, Valerie Singleton (1962 to 1972) and Mark Curry (1986 to 1989) are on hand to stir the nostalgia and there is a look at what life was like for children in Blue Peter's debut year.

### Porridee Pardon Me BBC1, 8.00pm (not Scotland)

BBC1, 8.00pm (not Scotland)
Once again the paucity of good new sitcoms compels the thought that some of the furniest material on the small screen is more than 20 years old. Even episodes of Dad's Army that have been shown so often that you almost know the lines backwards can still delight, while Porridge is a show which really deserves that overused word classic. It seems you do not get writing as sharp and witry any more and one day, no doubt, somebody will write a PhD thesis trying to explain why. Meanwhile it is enough to enjoy again the wonderful Clement-La Frenais scripts as they triumph on every level, especially in marrying the jokes with a satisfying plot. Romnie Barker's Fletcher is not the least of the pleasures and tonight's episode has the honus of equally splendid comic accing as David Jason takes his occasional Porridge role of the old lag, Blanco.

### Gardeners' World

On Channel 4 Garden Party is proving a livelier show than it was first time round but the BBC's old faithful is still the one to beat. Getting members of the public to air their problems, as Garden Party s, is admirable in theory, but can be less than

The Blue Peter presenters (BBCl, 5.10)

gripping in practice. Television is better left to professionals, and of these Gardeners World has a time crop. There is none better than the anchorman, Alan Titchmarsh, who cumbines a cheery presence with solid instruction. Tonight he is demonstrating the basic techniques for growing tomatoes and offering tips for planting-up hanging baskets. With Bob Flowerdew taking a break the consideration on a Greenwood, renorting on a eco slot goes to Pippa Greenwood, reporting on a local authority scheme to recycle garden waste and sell it back to the public as compost.

### See You Friday TV, 8.30pm

The remarks about Porridge were not meant as a dig at Alan Whiting's new series, which is in any case less siroom than romantic comedy. Greg and Lucy have a holiday fling in Crete, but because they live 250 miles apart (she in London, he in Newcastle) it becomes difficult to sustain the romance back home. Whiting's scenario is peppered with embarrassments, misunderstandings and arrangements made and thwarted as the lovelorn couple by to keen the affair point. It standings and arrangements made and inwarted as the lovelorn couple try to keep the affair going. It is gentle and unassuring stuff, perhaps a shade predictable, but for a large proportion of the female population, at least, the casting of Neil Pearson as Greg will be sufficient reason for tuning in. Nor does television's Mr Heartthrob disappoint, though Joanna Roth, in her first stab at comedy, provides an engaging foil. Peter Waymark

BBC Singers: Choral Masterwork Series Radio 3, 7.30pm.

As they say, you can't win em all. Little did Stanley Kubrick think, when he made 2001 — A Space Odyssey that, by using the spectacular opening secsion of Richard Strauss's tone poem Also

Sprach Zarathustra as the opening music of his film, he was introducing it to millions who didn't know it existed. The same success did not attend Györgi Ligeti's Lux Aeterna, though Kubrick made good use of it in 2001. This uncartify and vocally

demanding chord work is performed in tonight's BBC Singers concert, live from London. Other items are by Debussy, Baz. Birtwistle, Maxwell Davies and — a world premiere — Tristan Murail. The conductor is Simon Joly, with John Alley and

Catherine Edwards on keyboards. Peter Davaile

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST, News on the hour. 6,00cm Newsday 6,30

Europa Today 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Pick of the World 8.15 Off the Shell 8.30 Music Review 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Performance 9.30 John Peel 10.05 Business 10.15

Neighbours 16.30 SBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Assignment 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today

1.30 What's The You're Esting? 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newshour 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack: Alternative 4.05 Football Estin 4.15 The Streets of London 4.30 News in Garman 5.00 Europa 1.04 Sport 5.30 Business 5.45 Brisin Today 6.15 The World Today 5.30 News in Garman 6.40 Spotight 6.45 Sport 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.01 Outlook 6.25 Paulet for Thought 5.30 Multitrack Alternative 8.00 Newshour 10.05 Business 10.15 Brisin Today

Book at Bedtime: The Oedipus Complex Radio 4, 10.45pm.

No finer tribute could be paid to the late V.S. Pritchett than these readings of two of his short stories by John Moffal. Pritchett, who died in March, was a master of the genre. You had only to listen to The Vice-Consul, last night's Book at Bedtime, to recognise that fact. But, in case you missed it or, worse still, missed the point of it, you have another chance tonight to put matters right. The Oedipus Complex is Pritchett at his best and John Moffat at his best. It tells of a yarn-spinning dentist who suggested — in a quiet way — war. He is struggling to remove a stubbornly resistant. He is struggling to remove a stubbornly resistant root which he treats like a sworn enemy who must be conquered. To say more would be to ruin your

7.00em Mark Raddille 9.00 Smon Meyo 12.00 Jo Whiley, Indudes 12.30pm Newsbest 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.16 Newsbest 8.30 Pete Tong — Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jurge 12.00 Radio 1 Rep Show with Tim Westwood 3.00em Charle Jordan

6.00em Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wales Up to Wogen 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debble Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewert 5.05 John Durni 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night, from the Hippodrome, Golders Green 9.15 List Orders. George Cole reeds Greham Swift's Booker Prize-winning rowel (5/6) 9.30 Brass Showcase 10.00 Sharidan Mortey 12.05em Patrick Lunt

## RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00mm Morning Reports 6.00 The Brealdast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Middley with Mair 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdele Nationwide 7.00 News Extre 7.20 Friday Sport. Includes commentary on the Super League games between Wigen Werniors and London Broncos 10.00 Paper between Wigen Werniors and London Broncos 10.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00mm Up All Night

### TALK BADIO

5.00em Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Loreine Kelly 2.00pen Tommy Boyd 4.00 Christine, with Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 Miles Allen 1.00em fan Collins

## Alternative 9.00 Newshour 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Foder 19.05 Business 10.15 Britain Foder 19.05 Sport 11.20 The Woold Today 11.45 Sport 12.05 Outlook 12.30sm Multitrack: Alternative 1.30 From the Weeldes 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 The Streets 1.50 Chordon 3.30 People and Politics 10.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Weeldend 4.45 Off the Shelf 5.00 Outlook 6.45 Busin Brist

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Miles Read 9.00 Half of Fame Hour 10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Cortesto 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Classic Newsright 7.30 Sonata 8.00 Evening Concert Ressint (The Stern Ladder, Oventure), Mozart (Viola Concerto No 5 in A major, K219) 16.00 Michael Meppin 2.00am Concerto (r)

CLASSIC FM

VIRGIN RADIO 6.00mm Russ 'n' Jono's Bresidest Experience 10.00 Graham Dens 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horre 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alam Freeman 12.00 Mark Forrest 2.00mm/Howard Peirce

### RADIO 3

6.00 am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, includes Mozart (String Quintet in C, K515); Szymanowski Mozart (String Quintet in C, K515); Szymanowski (Moin Concerto No 2, Op 61); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugus, Op 87 No 19); Delius (Parls, The Song of a Great City); Verdi (Overture: Nebucco) 8.17 Building a Litrary: Michael Kennedy's Top Ten 8.36 Prokoliev (Pieno Concerto No 5)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore, Includes Brahms (Alto Rhapsock); Besthoven (Six Begatelles, Op 126; Der Kuss, Op 128); Berwald (Volin Concerto in C sharp mirror)

10.00 Musical Encountiers, with Mary Miller: Includes Verici (Concerto RVSS); Schwiert (Impromptu, D946 No 3); Toblas Hume (Cease Leaden Stumber); Vasks (Voices); Dagincour (Les Tourtorelles); Stravinsky (The Reke's Progress, excepts)

12.00 Commencer of the Mealer Strateger

2.00 Composer of the Week Sibelius 1.00pm News; Bristol Lunchtime Concert. Chris De

1.00pm Newer, Bristof Lunchtime Concert. Chris De Souza introduces a concert given in February at St. George's Brandon Hill, Bristol, by the Paristic Cuartet. Franck (Shing Quartet in 5)
2.00 Private Passions. Nichael Berkeley talks to the chorsographer Stothem Davies (f)
3.00 Mining the Archites. In conversation with Peter Frankl, Paut Guinery explores the recordings made by Hungarian-born Annie Fischer for the SBC, including somatas by Mozart, Besthoven, Bertok and Dohnary!
5.00 Music Machine. Verity Sharp visits Anchew Lumsden, organist, and mester of chorsiers at Lichtiald Caffredra!
5.16 In Tume, with Chris de Souza. Includes Schubert (Schezo in 8 Bat, DS93 No. 1); Bloch (Poems of the See); Liszi (Tasso).

the Seet; Liszt (Tasso)

7.30 Choral Masterworks. See Choice. Live from St. John's, Smith Square, London, John Aley and Catherine Edwards, keyboards, the BBC singers, conductor Simon Joly. Ligati (Luc Asterna); Debussy (Six Epigraphee Artiques); Tristan Morai (... Ameris et Dulcibus Aquis... first performance) 8.25 Book of the Month: Lucinille Jordanova reflects on the continuing importance of 18th-century Ideas in the Batt of The Pleasure of the Imagination: English Culting in the 18th Century by the historian John Brewer 8.45 Concert, part two. Birthestile (Narration. a. Description of the Passing of a Year); Maswell Davies (A Holy Calendar); Bax (Res Polsoned Fountain); Maswell Davies (Visiterlings).

9.35 Extrawagent Stringiers. Cert) Prilips talks to the novelist Homesh Guineseleira, Who was born in Sri Lanks (SS).

novelist Romesh Gunesekira, Who was born in Sri Lanks (5/5):

10.00 Hear and Now, Hillary Bracefield Introduces highlights from lest weekend's Sonorities lestivel in Bellast, includes performances by Ensemble Corrente, Accordite Note, the planist Roll Hind, and the viole player Meurizio Berbetti

11.30 Composers of the Weeld Haydin (r)

12.30 an Everything but the Chazymouse, Russell Davies continues his biography of the sacophonist Sidney Bechet (5/6) (r)

1.00 Through the Right, with Consid Macleod.

(includes 4.00 Amsterdem Baroque Chois and Orchestia, order Tom Koopmen, Bachi (Centates: Nos 161,162:163,165 and 63) 2.45 Firmish Radio Symphory Orchestra, under Julkia Pekkis Sarasta, Will, Jame Hindelmen, jamo, Monica Groop, accomo Lars-Erik Jonsson, tenor, Kimmo Hakola (Plano Concerto); Marker (Das Lied von der Erde) 8.00 Séquence

5.55mm Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Bristing
6.10 Familing Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.50
Today, includes Sports News 8.40 Last Chance to
Sea. The final part of Douglas Adents's recollections of his quest to find a Komodo Dragon
9.00 News 9.05 Desert taland Discs. Sue Lawley
talks to the astronomer royel Sir Metrin Rees (r)
9.45 Feedback Spoken English Spocial. Chris
Dunkley uses letters from his postbag to assess
the BBC's on-air English
10.00 News; Feasts, Pasts and Festivals. The
occasional series on religious testivals explores
the Greek Othodox Easter
10.30 Worsan's Hour, with Sylvia Horn
11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by
Joanne Pinnock

Joanna Pinnock
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affeits with Mark Whitteker
12.25pm Food Programme. Presented by Derek
Cooper 12.55 Weather

Cooper 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nack Clarke
1.40 The World at One, with Nack Clarke
1.40 The Archers (f) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Seriet: Rogue Herries, by Hugh
Walpole. Dramatised by Eric Pringle. With Gawin
Muir, Mark Borner and Janet Maw (2/4) (f)
3.00 News; The Atternoon Shift, with Leufe Taylor
and the guests of the day
4.00 News 4.05 Knietioscope. Tim Marlow looks at a.
new exhibition at the Tate in St Ives. Plus a review
of Hamlet at Stratford with Alex Jernings
4.45 Short Stery; Bebel Fable, by Iain Pattison. The
story of the france search to find the bus driver
who can save the human race! Read by Jonethen
Keeble (r)

Keeble (r) 5.00 PM, with Chartie Lee-Potter and Nigel Wrench-5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Growing Spaces. Edi Stark looks at the
meticilous attention to detail behind Jonathan
Mylas-Las's paintings of country houses and their
gardens and The Times gardener, Stephen
Anderton, meets members of the Rothechild tamily
in both wild and formal settings
7.30 Pick of the Week. Chris Serie presents his
selection of extracts from BBC radio and television
8.05 Any Guestions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the
topical debate from Bury St Edmunds to Soffok
With Smon Heller, Partical Hewitt, MP. Sr
Stephen Turnin and Shaun Woodward, MP
9.50 The Front. Sara Parker presents a series about
paople and pretence (3/4)
9.15 Letter from America, by Alletair Cooke
9.30 Kataldoscope Feathan. The third anniversary of
Nelson Mandela's election as President of South
Africa is approaching and Amande Hopkinson
talks to photogrumalists who have reported on the
changes in the country since the 1950s (f)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustin
10.45 Book at Budtime: The Ceditius Complex. See
Choics (f)
11.00 Week Ending: The comedy sketch show with

10.AS HOOK AT PROBRIES I THE COME OF THE COLOR (1)

11.00 Week Ending: The comedy sketch show with Sally Grace and the team

11.25 Fourth Column. A quizzical look at the week's events presented by Times columnist John

Diamond

11.45 The Near Recrisit, A litelang estate agent teaches
a newcomer a less tricks of the trade (f)
12.00 Nears 12.30 The Late Book: Behind the
Scenes at the Nituseum, by Kete Aliknson, Read
by Paircia Hodge (5/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1,00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.569.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 193. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE MW 648; LW 198. (12.45-535em). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.2; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and ratio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Sosen Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.



## What could be ALL is far from well at Wigan. The team is stuck in the bottom half of the Stones Super League and there is a



A most Gratifying Ale.

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Answers from page 42 XENOGENOUS

(a) A fine 19th-century word meaning pompous or bombastic language. Use it in useful combination with another typically English duplicated word fiimflam. "Did you listen to the Prime Minister's party political speech last night." All flubdub and fiimflam, as usual."

(b) To trim or cut the hoofs or nails. From the Latin ex-off, ie to remove + ungula a hoof. "Mummy. I wish you would do something to stop it. It makes me sick. Harry is in the bathroom, enungulating himself again."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Mass hysteria was the only explanation. Or a technique for self-hypnosis was being explored. But if it went on

commented sympathetically to a rabid Man U fan on Wednesday night, choosing my words without sufficient care. "By DEFAULT?" he echoed. Fortunately, he's a good mate, or he'd have knocked me down. Evidently, winning is the crucial thing where the league is concerned; a glorious last-ditch encounter is just a

RUGBY LEAGUE

simple addition, and probably

## Betts off to Wigan again

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

land, who recently agreed to his release because of family reasons". Betts said: "Obviously, things have changed at move by rebel shareholders to Wigan, but that gives me a new challenge. Sheer hard overthrow the board, but the return next year of Denis Betts work made them the No I club will mean a reassuring and in the world and the same will galvanising presence at Cendo that again."

tral Park. the deal that will bring Betts back to his former club, halfway through a five-year con-tract with Auckland Warriors. A reported £850,000 deal over four years will make Bens comfortably the highest-paid player in England - a price for the Great Britain forward that Wigan, and not Leeds, were prepared to pay. Berts, 27, will see out the

Australasian Super League

season and forthcoming world

club championship with Auck-

Betts: returning

WORD-WATCHING

(c) Due to an outside cause. "Gosh. I am impressed by your clever daughter's A Levels. Marigold. Fancy you and Paul bringing forth such a genius. Absolutely xenogenous!"

EXUNGULATE

(a) Silly fooling around. Or eccentric or grotesque ornament or ornamentation. "Now Charlie, this is Sasha. She is going to babysit for us tonight. Now I do not want you to pester the life out of her to look at you fandangle all night, the way you did

I Ruh7+! Kxh7 2 Rh1+ Bh6 3 Rxhn+! Kxh6 4 Qf4+ g5 5 Qh2+ Kg6 6 Qh5+ Kf6 7 Qf7 checkmate

retired because of a spinal injury, has agreed to be nomifor a proposed new board. There is speculation that John Monie, the former Wigan coach, will be the second nomination. Shaun Edwards, now com-

mitted to London Broncos, will play no part in a takeover at Wigan by the old guard. He returns there tonight with mixed emotions. His new team is doing better than his former one and victory would move London into the top three, but Edwards has taken no pleasure in seeing Wigan struggle. Edwards said that he had

not wanted to leave Wigan, with whom he collected 39 winner's medals in 14 years. but that the club had refused his offer to divide his time between it and his family in London. It took him a while to settle, but a blossoming halfback partnership with Josh White is reaping dividends for the in-form Broncos. When London drew at Cen-

tral Park last June, it was the first point that Wigan had dropped at home for two years, but they have been beaten there twice already this eason. Henry Paul returns from injury after missing Wigan's past five matches. Nigel Wright starts his first match for two years. Lee Hansen makes his full debut at prop and Martin Hall returns at

2 Wins

M IBE

ig ext

# Are you sitting comfortably? Not for long

hold and our again. In Yes, It was, she explained, a notori-1999 (BBCI) was back and already if birdy dangerous stretch of water, was clear that the sight of Michael Toponi hardenlarly, she emphas-Buerk clad - a mile self-conscious ised, for its shifting sandbanks. I ly - in jeans and open-neck shirt editorial policy and out again.
I'd just about coped with the 12year-old boy trapped on use of a macabre trailer. We'd arready amin of his holiday villa pool for six a macabre trailer. We'd arready minutes: I'd even found time to had "drowning", we hadn't yet get minutes: I'd even found time to had "drowning", we hadn't yet get minutes: I'd even found time to burnt alive, so it must be the rather more flattering bikini for . odd-looking one about an upsidehis godmother who, remembering a previous 999 about what to do their someone's trapped in a Jacuzzi (humestly I'm not making this up), repeatedly dived down to blow air into the boy's hungs, It

worked, as secretly we knew it

would, and before we knew it the

actors had made way for the real

people who all said how much they

made a note: sandbanks. Then it was a case of what happened next. Now, to some extent we know what happens next on 999 because down fisherman which had so strangely defeated the programme's pat summary writers. We were about to discover why.

Tom was pottering back to port, filling the time productively by doing a spot of winch wire reversing. Sounds a bit technical (the key words, however are "winch" and people who all said how much they. "wire" and looked a bit danger-loved each other, we felt a vicarious. "What about those shifting

eep breaths: I told rayself our warm glow and suddenly it sandbanks? I thought as he concentrate on taking was time for Juliet Morris in the stepped forward to untangle a nasty wire knot. Thud — boat hit nasty wire knot. Thud - boat his sandbank, boat heels over. Tom stumbles and foot gets trapped in nasty wire knot. Winch is still running.

> s a nasny-looking ser of rusty rollers drew near, I L began to feel faint. Tom, however, was stoic "I thought to myself this is going to be paintin." Then suddenly the winch stopped. What a relief. Tom was mutteringsomething about salety release valves and I was thinking whar splendid upside-down acting our stand-in was doing, when sudden-ly the calm tones of Morris interrupted with news that surely had the entire nation adopting the recovery position: Tom's severed leg was trapped in the winch and he was still attached to it by his oilskins." Severed leg, what severed leg? Ah, that severed leg.

> > 10.30 This Morning (T) (62091002)

Calendar (1) (2864373)

3.25 Regional News (T) (6526002)

5.10 A Country Practice (7107557)

5.40 News (1) and weather (813460)

6.25 HTV Weather (677083)

lest? (1) (5847)

6.30 The West Tonight (T) (625)

6,00 Home and Away (r) (T) (338557)

7.00 Lucky Numbers hosted by Shane Richie (T) (6199)

7,30 Commation Street Ashley demands

8.00 The Bill A would-be hero's intervention in

straight answers from Don (T) (809)

an armed robbery lands Page in a hos-

Joenna Roth, Nell Pearson (8.30pm)

10.30 The West Tonight (376064)

12.35 Bonkers (1) (4344565)

1.35 Club Nation (T) (6235381)

4.15 Movie Club (r) (10300)

4.45 Phenomena (66191855)

5.30 News (33107)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (66010)

10.40 Sounds of the West: Techno First of a

11.15 At the Albert Smile perform at the music

12.15am The Wecky Weekly World News

2.35 Murder in High Places (1991) with Ted Levine, Adam Baldwin and Judith Hoag. The newly elected Mayor of a small

The newly elected Mayor of a small Colorado town is stunned when his

former wite is brutally murdered and turns

for help to a visiting Chicago cop. Directed by John Byrum (254584)

six-part saries looking at the vibrant music scene in the West (279557)

ch the robber, but will her courage

3.20 News (T) (6527731)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (8468625)

12.30 News (T) and weather (9544644)

12.55 Our House (r) (9529335) 1.25 Home and

3.30 Rosie and Jim (6887489) 3.40 Slim Pig

Away (T) (70600441) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (r) (8984335) 2.50 Garden

3.50 Cartoon Time (7497880) 4.00 The Treacle People (T) (7795538) 4.15 Where's Wally? (r) (T) (4210538) 4.40 Crazy Cottage (T) (9612731)

REVIEW



In ... and hold ... and out again. Thank goodness Tom still had a pen-knife, a clean towel and a couple of codeine tablets around. eh? In no time at all he was up on his good leg, hopping into the wheel-house and straight on to the mobile phone. And the moral of this story, we later learnt, is that if you're going to lose a leg, it's best to have it torn off. The arteries go into spasm and you lose less blood

and out again. To anybody who feels I'm being feeble about this, I should point

out that I'd already been found wanting by the opening instalment of Health Alert (Channel 4). Having taken an unpleasant look at brain surgery for the BBC on Tomorrow's World on Wednesday. Shahnaz Pakrayan crossed over to the opposition last night to consider the occasionally hazy world of laser eye surgery.

Honestly. I was quite brave during the first bit, although I'll confess to wincing when they scraped away the outer layers of the comea with a scalpel. It was the new technique, Lasik, which got me. Known in the trade (and when it comes to laser surgery, trade is the right word; as "flap and zap". I wondered how they made the flap. Pakravan told us: "It involves shaving the eye with a device which cuts into the cornea

like a miniature lawn-mower." Not really my favourite analogy of the week. I didn't enjoy the pictures that followed much, either.

The programme itself, however, was rather good, injecting a well-judged note of caution into claims that laser surgery is some sort of optical panacea. For PRK there can be problems with pain (particularly on the first day), night vision and a haze that can take months to clear. With LAZIK, there is a possibility of the flap coming off. traumatic cataracts and an outside chance of what one expert picturesquely described as "the machine chewing up the coloured part of the eye". Well, what do you expect if you stick a lawn-mower in it?

But the most persuasive argument of all came from a conference in the Scottish Borders where, of the I(X) ophthalmic surgeons attending, not a single one had had laser surgery. That didn't stop the programme's two guinea pigs going ahead with the procedure and it didn't stop them being absolutely thrilled with the results. But it did ensure a long-term future for my telly glasses.

Given what had preceded it, it was perhaps not the ideal night for a director to go right back to basics with This Life (BBC2) in its new Thursday night slot, Cameras wobbled and edits were cut at a speed that has not been seen since episode one, series one. All very dizzy-making but all still wonder-fully enjoyable. Ferdy finally got Warren's room, which seemed only right after all the good work Ramon Tikarum has put in to turn what was virtually a non-speaking part into an established regular; and the ghasily Rachel ta wonderfully convincing Natasha Little) managed to annoy Milly even accidents . . , this week.

### E Dum Business Breakfast (81170) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (73828) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (3295460) 9.20 Style Challenge (6746977) 9.45 Kiltroy (7091625)

10.30 Cen't Cook Won't Cook (18828) 11,00 News (T) (7835170) 11,05 The Great Escape (7292170) 11.35 Change That (5997624) 12.00 News (T) (8462441) 12.05pm Call My Bluff (8117847)

12.35 Good Living (9558847) 1.00 News (T) and weather (76915) 1.30 Regional News (86885460) 1.40 The Weather Show (99061647) 1,45 Neighbours (T) (40921489) 2.10 Quincy (6713151)

2.55 Through the Keyhole (6489644) 3,20 A Perfect Arrangement (6523915). 3.30 Mouse and Mole (7493084) 3.35 Playdays (8341286) 3.55 Bodger and Bedger (6855880) 4.10 Ace Venture: Pet Detective (4226198) 4.35 Clarissa Explains it All (1454915) 5.00 Newsround (1) (4612847)

Blue Peter Celebration of the 3,000th actition of the pro-gramme (1) (6481373)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (1) (647354) 6.00 News (T) and weather (977).

6.30 Regional News (557)-7.00 Weekand Watchdog The team investi-gates, extertionately high booking fees charged by cartain agencies (I) (4731) 7.30 Top of the Pope (1) (41)

Pontidge Classic prepri comedy with Bonnie Barker (f)

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8.30 A Question of Sport David Coleman . quiz (1), (9286)

9,00 News (1) and weather (6538) 9.30 Ghost (1990) Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore ster in this romantic faritisey about a young couple cruely torn spart by a tast mugging. However, victim Swayze remains on earth in spirit form and tries to Rind a way to warn his love that he was murdared. Enter Whoopi Goldberg, in Oscar-winning form, as the scatter breined take psychic more amazed than anyone to discover her powers are real. Directed by Jeny Zucker (1) (22354)

11,30 Black Rainbow (1989) Medium . Rosanna Arquette has a premonition of murder during a public display of her statked by the vicious killer, who will do anything to keep his identity secret. With lason Roberds, Tom Hules and Mark Joy. Directed by Mike Hodges (709199) 12.00 FILM: Black Rainbow (457774) 1.40 FILM: The Bride of Frankers

1.10am The Bride of Frankenstein (1935 with Boris Kertoff. Beron Frankenstein-sets about building a mate for his monstrous creation. Directed by James 2.25 Weather (2706936)

VideoPius + and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programms listing are Video PlusCode "numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+" handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ ("), Pluscode (") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gernster Development Ltd.

# 6.00am Open University: One Fact, Many Facets (856)915) 6.25 From Public to Private (1) (7875731)

7.15 See Hear Breaktast News (f) (3923625) 7.30 Teenage Mulant Hero Turtles (r) (8145977) 7.55 Young People's Specials (1235335) 8,20 Adventures of the Garden Faines (3244606) 8.25 Tales of the Tooth Fetries (f) (6458286) 8.35 The Reccoons (f) (3338805)

9.00 The French Experience (3279422) 9.15 The French Experience (32/19422) 9.15.
The French Collection (501422) 9.45.
Watch (7673287) 10.00 Teleuboles (5118) 10.98 Weach Out (6856915) 10.45 Pathways of Bellef (6844170) 11.00 Look and Resel Special (6709625) 11.20 Bellef File (5481712) 11.40 Mathsphere Special (4485083) 12.00 English File (1) (90422)

12.30 Worlding Lunch (27064) 1.00 Job Bank: Pattern Cutter (92879408) 1.10 Job Bank: Hairdressing (65819828) 1.20 The Developing World (70614644) 1.45 Words and Pictures (86879809) (30157712) 2.05 Tales of the Tooth Fairles (30158083)

2.10 intermedional Golf: Benson and Hedges Open Live coverage of the second 18 holes at The Oxfordshire as the European Tour pays its first visit to Britain in 1997 (39149441) 6.00 The Simpeons (f) (1) (419996)

6.20 Ster Trek (r) (1) (488977) 7.10 Greet Railway Journeys Victoria Wood



Peter Aillies on course (8.00pm)

.8.00 A Golfer's Travels with Peter Allies Peter Alliss travels the fairways of Hawaii. Last in series (T) (8793)

Gerdeners' World presented

town as Reb's long-lost brother, Gash Senior (r) (1) (9880)

10.00 Have I Got News for You The guests

10,30 Newsnight (1) (992996) 11.15 Space: Above and Beyond (960657)

12.00 This Life (r) (T) (4955045) 12.45mm Close-Up on Hitchcock (6631590) 12.55 Mr and Mrs Smith (1941, b/w) with

8.30 See You Friday A new romantic cornedy series about a couple who live 250 miles apart. With Neil Pearson and Joanna Roth (1) (4354) 9.00 The Grand John Bennerman is bitten by a stray dog and his family spand a sleepless night wornying whether he has contracted a fatal disease (1) (2625) 10.00 News (T) and weather (95977)

by Pippa Greenwood and Alan Titchmarsh (T) (7828) 9.00 Rab C Nesbitt Sylvester McCoy rolls into

9.30 Sunnyside Ferm Ray hopes to fulfil a litetime simbition and buy a helicopter (T)

are Christine Hamilton and Maureen Lipman (91151)

Robert Montgomery, Gene Raymond and Carole: Lombard. A couple's idyllic lifestyle is turned upside down by a buréancratic decision. Romantic comert directed by Alfred Hitchcock (5881381) 2.25 Westher (2704478)

As HTV West except: 6.00am GNTV (4855118) 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (r) (T) (6754996) 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9529335: 9.55 Regional News (1) (3172731) 2.50-3.20 Secrets from the Secret Garden 10.00 The Time, the Piace (48644)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7107557) 6.25-7.00 Central News (922354) 10.40 Film: Defending Your Life (55629422) 12.40am in Bed with MeDinner (9283045) 1.10 Bankers (5988045)

2.10 Baywatch (6920403) 3.00 Cyber Cafe (49474768) 3.25 Helter Skelter (4927759) 4.10 Central Jobfinder '97 (9150355; 5.20 Aslan Eye (8108039)

### As HTV West except:

12,55pm Home and Away (9529335) 1,25 Wish You Were Here? (22445267) 1.55 Blue Heelers (8992354)

WESTCOUNTRY

2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Dlary (2864373) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7107557) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (39909) 10.30 Westcountry News (390644) 10.45 Film: The Killing Time (51015101)

### MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9529335) 1.55 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (40956793)

2.25-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (7492977) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7107557) 6,00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (39809) 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (390644) 10.45 Highlander (476373) 11.40 A406 (704083)

5.00 Freescreen (66010)

As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9529335) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8992354) 2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7107557) 6.25-7.00 Angita News (922354) 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (390644) 10.45 Film: Class (51015101)

Starts; 6.00am Sesame Street (54880) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (66538) 9.00 Sewitched (97034) 9.30 Film: Those Were the Days (4169977) 10.55 Yellow Shoes (7295267) 11.00 Film: Pony Soldier (78151) 12.30pm Rickl Lake (45460) 1.00 Slot Meithrin (86574016) 1.15 Slot Syniadau Sall (95029921) 1.30 Film: Relsing the Wind (34518199) 3.10 A Little Loving (3661985) 3.30 Moving People (731) 4.00 Fifteen-to One (538) 4.30 Health Alert (422) 5.00 E Pump (4977) 5.30 Countdown (642) 6.00 Newyddion (313373) 6.05 Heno (316335) 6.35 Bob Yn Ddau (684373) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (882646) 7.25 Cymru Gudd (634641) 8.00 Olion Ddoe (3489) 8.30 Newyddion (2996) 9.00 To the Ends of the Earth: Bigfoot Monster Mystery (5557) 10.00 Brookside (26847) 10.30 Phil Kay Feels (271915) 11.05 Eurotrash (730248) 17.35 TFI Friday (318170) 12.35am Robin (9895039) 12.40 Film: The Last Wave (256300) 2.40 Film: The Shout

(4793) 7.30 FILM: Tron (31839) 9.00-

8.00mm Three Little Chasts (9504625) 5.30 Inspector Gadget (9816731) 7.00 Samural Pizza Cas (4368793) 7.30 Alich Rangers (4307928) 8.00 Big Bad Beetlebrigs (2566335) 8.30 Crossdoo (2564805) 9.00

(2905.50) 8.30 (1005.00) 9.20 The Mage Box (4900793) 9.45 Dudley the Diagon (1256199) 10.05 Renba's Island (4152450) 10.25 The Mage Box (7870015) 11.00 dn In and the Panda Control (6730054) 11.30

Jin and the Panda Control (6730064) 11-30 Proceduo (673193) 12-00 Inspector Gad-gar (2368422) 12-30 Jun VR Troopers (84215296) 12-50 Jun VR Troopers (84215296) 12-50 Jun Jun Rangers (8421529) 1-10 Sig Bad Beseleborgs (8421523) 1-30 Eeld Stravaganza J4312539 2-00 Life with Louie (3411539) 2-30 Crocadoo (2344731) 3-00 Garget Boy (3453373) 3-30 Eeld Stravaganza (322249) 4-40 Life with Louie (323503) 4-30 Alen Rangers (2312571 Soo Big Bad

4.30 Alen Ranger: (3231267) 5.00 Big 8ad Beetleburgs (3465118) 5.30 Speleman

FOX KIDS NETWORK

### CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (54880) 7.00 The Big Breaklast (66538) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (97034) 9.30 Those Were the Days (1934, b/w) Will Hay in his film debut A Victorian magistrate becomes caught up in comic complications when he tries to reform his

Angela Baddeley. Directed by Thomas Bentley (4169977) 10.55 Yellow Shoes Animation (7295267) 11.00 The Sacred Way From Athens to

errant stepson. Also with John Mills and

Eleusis (r) (65809) 12.00 Garden Party (r) (25118; 12.30pm Light Lunch (92731) 1.30 Par and Mike; The Quicket Hedge (56878170)

1.40 The Rains of Ranchipur (1955) with Richard Burton and Lana Turner Adrama about an attair between an Indian doctor and a man-hungry woman. Directed by Jean Negulesco (2776335)

3.00 Moving People (r) (6557) 4.00 Filteen-10-One (T) (538) 4.30 Countdown (T) (422) 5.00 Ricki Lake (T) (4977) 5.30 Pel

6,00 TFI Friday (20151) 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (426915)

7.50 Sook Cholos Special: A Festival of Commonwealth Literature with the Calculia-born Author Vivram Seth 8.00 Garden Party A visit to Pine Lodge in

Comwall (T) (3489) 8.30 Brookside Sinbad makes a horntying

discovery (1) (2996) 9.00 Caroline in the City Caroline and Del experience doubts as their wedding day

approaches (1) (1248) 9.30 Spin City The Mayor tooks as it he is about to embark on an atlair to prove he isn't over the hill, Larry King, Rosse O'Donnell and David Letterman make guest appearances (T) (32996)

10.00 Frester Frester discovers that a painting he loves is a fake (r) (T) (26847)



De Caunea and Messenger (11.05pm

11.05 Eurotrash The first of a new series, with Melinda Messenger, presented Antoine de Caunes (730248)

11.35 TFI Friday (r) (703354) 12.35 am Robin Adult animation (8936774) 12.40 The Last Wave (1977) with Richard Chamberlain. An inexperienced lawyer detends a group of Aboriginals accused of murder. Directed by Peter Weir (256300)

2.40 The Shout (1978) with Alan Betes, John Hurt and Susannah York, A horror story of a man who has developed the power to with a shout Directed by Jerzy Skolimowski (244107) 4.20 - 6.00 The Face at the Window (1939

b/w). Horror movie set in 1880s Paris, with Tod Slaughter. George King directs

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. transponder to 50 on the Asia a salesties. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder with be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (8968847) 7.30 Havakazoo (5713267) 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol

(2663489) 8.30 Wideworld: The Shrinking World The luture of television (8655460

9.00 Espresso (2693712) 10.00 Exclusive (r) (7270625) 10.30 Nancy Lam (f) (8542996) 11.00 Leeza (9319996) 11.50 Bold and the Beautiful (1) (8633248) 12.30pm Family Atlans (r) (T) (4745267) 1.00 5 News Update (49061288) 1.05 Sunset Beach (T) (3722809) 2.00 5's

Company (7244538) 3.30 The Young Ones (1962, b/w) Teen musical starring Cliff Richard, directed by Sidney J. Fune (8939335) 5.30 100 Per Cent (9415489)

6,00 Whittle Game show (9405002) 6,30 Family Affairs (T) (9496354) 7.00 Exclusive (6518965)

7.30 Wildliffe SOS A fire threatens the animals of the wildlife sanctuary (T) (9492538)



The presenter Tim Vincent (8,00pm)

8.00 Attractions Tim Vincent visits the Aston Martin tactory in Newport Pagnell

8.30 5 News (7263278)

9.00 Trade Off (1995) with Theresa Russell and Adam Baldwin A thriller about a man who is drawn into a passionale atlair while on a business trip to Miami (90565441)

10.50 Exclusive Extra (4711489) 11.00 The Jack Docherty Show (5068064)

11.40 Club Class (5479373) 12.10am News and sport (6745213)

12.15 The Myth of the Male Orgasm (1993) with Bruce Dinsmore. A psychology professor, aged 30 and single, volunteers as a subject in an expension conducted by a teminist group. Directed by John Hamilton (7990213)

2.00 Red River (1988) with James Arness and Bruce Boxleitner A western drama about a 1,000-mile cattle drive. Directed by Richard Michaels (7136584)

3.35 Appointment In Honduras (1953) with Glenn Ford and Ann Sheridan A thriller about a man hired to deliver a large sum of money to a deposed presiden in the Honduran jungle. Directed by Jacques Tourneur (76338328) 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4237565)

5,30-6,00 100 Per Cent (r) (2585749)

### listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

6.00em Morning Glory (722285) 9.00 Regis 8.00em Morning Glory (72226) 8,00 Fegles and Kathle Lee (31441) 10.00 Another Morte (23847) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (34593) 12.00 The Optah Whitely Story (65731) 1.00pm Gerado (62531) 2.00 Selves (86751) 3.00 Jerny Jones (7997) 4.00 The Optah Whitely Show (61712) 5.00 Selves Treit The Need Centeration (8248) 8.00 Real TV (1536) 6.30 Married with Cristres (5118) 7.00 The Simpania (6977) 7.30 M-A\*SH (4002) 8.00 JAG (15448) 8.00 Whiter, Texas Ranger (21628) (897) 7.30 M-A-T (1544) 8.00 Weiler, Fessa Renger (1528) 10.00 Figh Insident (24913) 11.00 Ser Treit, The Next Generation (6128) 12.00 Amenda's Durchest Criminals (7229) 12.30em LA.P.D. (35045) 1.00 Hr Max 10.00 Hr Max

SKY 2 Superboy (SEC-986) 8.40 PROTEST INF. Legendary Journeys (7454554) 9.00 Pacific Dave (7454148) 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (2595151) 10.20 Tales from the Crypt (2595151) 10.20 Tales from (4397441)

SKY NEWS

Workwide name coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven clays a week

\$0.00mm The Johnes (1998) \$2557] 8.00 \$10mm The Johnes (1998) \$2557] 8.00 \$10my Book (1994) \$3845485 9.40 A Fensat of Mednight [1994) \$17790441] 11.30 Little Buddin [1993] \$29505 1.30pm The Little Shophest of Kingdom (1994) \$27325 5.00 A Fenst at Mednight (1994) \$2315 7.00 D2. The Mighty Ducks (1995) \$3267 3.00 Sahara (1995) (7580544) 10.30 Angels and Jasects (1995) \$4943002) 12.20es The Botons (1995) \$4943002) 12.20es The Botons (2001) [1995] \$493002) 12.20es The Botons

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

Touch (1941) (78364) 12.00 Mr North-(1988) (71996) 2.00pm Dark Waters (1984) (1309) 4.00 Transformants The Servic (1985) (1422) 6.00 Prehysbartal II (1984) (49460) 7.30 UK Top 10 (7712) 8.00 When a Bles Louse a Woman (1889) (8118), 10.06 Black Scorpion (1989) (10860) 11.40 Forbidden Choices (1984) (32977) 1.20em Jefferson In Parts (1989) (8119887) 3.40 Bediens (1946) (5877585) 8.00 Willy Fogs 20,000 Laugues Under the See (1965) (3213) SKY MOVIES GOLD

5.00mm They All Laughed (1981) [2171246] 8.00 Short Circuit II (1988) [2176793] 10.00 Hard to KIN (1990) 2(175/93) 10.00 Hard to KM (1990) 512(605) 11.40 Zardoz (1974) 5424298 1.30pm Salietzetton (1986) (1882316) 3.05-5-00 Cult Me Madeum (1953) TNT

8.00pm WCW Nitro (37613267) 9.00 Comm (1976) (37616354) 11.00 The Thin San Goes Home (1944) (56943354) 12.50am The Great Lie (1941) (8615074) 2.45-5.00 GasSpit (1940) SKY SPORTS 1

38.1 SPUNIS 1
7.00mi Sports Centre (59002) 7.20 Wresting: Superatus (4062) 8.30 Racing News
(40064) 9.00 Networks (64644) 9.30
Aerobics Oz Style (77808) 93.00 Trans
Wrist Sport (86783) 11.00 Pormula Times
Racing (58657) 12.00 Aerobics Oz Style
(44869) 12.30pus Netbusius (7422) 1.00
Aughy Che Spocial (34499) 9.00 Trans
Woold Sport (4089) 4.00 Formula Times
Racing (26995) 5.00 World Sport Spocial
(4015) 5.30 Netbusius (9139) 6.00 Sports
Certre (53441) 7.00 Live Super Lengue
(126703) 9.03 Sports Carter (16355) 10.30
Hold the Back Page (25161) 11.30 SuperLengue (81460) 1.20 Wresting Raw
(48361) 3.30 4.30 Sports Centre (68497)
Stay Sportiff 5.2 SKY SPORTS 2

JODpin End Zone: WLAF Raview (191088)

9.00 Watersparis World (190644) 10.080) Watersparis World (190644) 10.00 Watersparis (524944) 12.00-1.00en Prof Zone W.AF Review (3625555)

SKY SPORTS 3

Open Surling (30193538) 8.30 Skift Selling (23673033) 8.00 The Winning Cup Like Horse Racing (37614996) 8.00 Ten Pin Bouling (3761941) 18.00 NHL loc Hockey Powerweek (37605248) 11.00 Australian Athletics (65898644) 11.30-72.00 Skift Datas (65898644) 11.30-72.00 Skift EUROSPORT

(76489) 8.30 Motors (38354) 9.30 Motors(cling (95002) 10.00 Modern Pentatrion (62489) 11.00 ice Hockey (23713) 11.30 Motorsports (32002) 12.30 pre Footbell (4847) 2.00 live ice Hockey (416828) 4.90 De Tentes (60489) 6.00 Lee ice Hockey (135441) 8.30 Tractor Pulling (31482) 9.30 Tornis (65354) 19.00 Densions (5700) 14 no live liceless (15700) 41 91. (57267) 11.00 Iro Hockey (15793) 11.30-12.30 Bosing (52718) UK GOLD

7:00em Tehyslack (8343441) 7:35 Neighbours (6744084) 8.00 Crossroads (845897) 8.25 EastEnders (8202072) 9.00 The Bill (7331809) 9:30 Don't Wait Up (4561441) 10.00 Robin's Nest (4418712) 10.20 The Suftware (7320793) 11:00 Cesuelly (1112793) 12:05pm Crossroads (8602257) 12:30 Neighbours (4572557) 1:00 EastEnders (8139489) 1:35 The Two Romines (2846890) 2:30 Exacutive Stress (3457731) 3:00 Garbaration Game (8259089) 9:05 EastEnders (8979034) 6:40 Sylas (285028) 7:20 Russ Abbol (5245528) 7:50 7.00em Tellystack (8343441) 7.35 Neigh-[526026] 7.20 Russ Abbot [524553] 7.50 Rising Damp (7721286) 8.20 In Sidness and in Health (8948486) 9.00 The Bis (3967731) 9.30 The Chief (47235441) 10.35 FILM: Raw Deal (37184847) 12.30am FILM: Call Him Mr Shatter (9318478) 2.15 Shopping at Night (82999671) GRANADA PLUS

6.00mm The Box (4894116) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (6553151) 7.30 Families

Corporation Street (1985) 17 - 25 and (1985) 18 - 25 (1985) 18 - 25 (1985) 18 - 25 (1985) 19 - 2

(19918267) 12.30pm. Femiles (1671037) 1.00 Alben Market (6592422) 1.30 The Good Life Guide (190988) 2.00 First Among Equals (6500712) 3.00 Upstats,

Downstows (975/354) 4,00 Surpress Surpress (9776499) 5,00 The Protessionals (2006199) 8,00 Families (2551847) 6,30

Classic Coronation Street (2552199) 7.00 Clases Coronation Street (232-149) Falls Surprise, Surprise (6823847) 8.00 Upsairs, Downstein (6902987) 9.00 Clases Corona-tion Street (9785372) 9.30 The Cornections (4859900) 70.00-11.00 The Professionals THE DISNEY CHANNEL

8.00mm Mouse Indus (25/162) 4.25 Cuert, Atlach (820946) 6.56 Brahen; (902170) 7.15 The Lutic Marmad (2198278) 7.40 Asaddin (4381731) 8.05 Cuert, Pack (25/1106) 8.30 Gool Troop (66624) 9.00 The Care Bears (4553009) 9.21 Pach Corner (4565644) 9.50 Murpost 8.2hies (3453890) 10.15 Grounding March (13/6460) 19.40 Sing Me a Sisry (128928) 11.05 Mouse and Mole (2768538) 11.10 Big Garage (4378947) 11.25 Play Along (3826199) 11.35 Fraggie Rock (6537249) 12.20 per Timon and Pumbas (68132083) 1.15 Mouse Tracks (785557) 1.45 Aladoin (6065170) 2.10 Gool Troop (24439118) 2.35 Sonkers (5701425) 3.00 Cueck Atrack (9713989 3.25 Timon and Pumbas (2675539) 3.35 The Little Marmad (885256) 3.35 Timon and Pumbas (5855286) 4.06 Timon and Pumbas (582538) 4.10 Gool Troop (6017731) 4.30



CARTOON NETWORK Non-slop carloons from **8.00am** to **9.00pm**, trobules from and Jerry, Popeye and the Portsiones

NICKELODEON 6.00em. Count Duchule (75809) 6.30 Rocto's Modern Life (2028s) 7.00 Hey Artoid (51644) 7.30 Rugrass (30151) 8.00 Doug (49335) 8.30 Armu (48608) 9.00 CRSC (84557) 10.00 Wimpe's House CBRC (84557) 10.00 Wintzie's House (11538) 10.30 Babar (51170) 11.00 Megic School Bus (36286) 11.30 Mr Mer/King Roto/Berncy/(37915) 12.00 Benanes in Pyternas (42422) 12.30pm Line Beer Stones (79064) 1.00 CBBC (98737) 2.00 Dr Souss (8977) 2.30 Kassylur (6625) 3.00 Ahin and the Chemunks (3192) 3.30 Sound 5.30 Moestra (9511) 8.00 F (7354) 6.30-7.00 Doug (8606)

TROUBLE 12.00 Nearthreak High (4579450) 1.00pm Medison (835:2644) 1.30 Swiss Valley High (456896) 2.00 Hanglinte (4867367) 2.30 California Dreams (3467199) 3.00 Bylion Grove (4879002) 3.30 No Neked Flames Larous (481-1910.1) 31.30 No Negree Harmes (3465143) 4.00 Sareet Valley High (3461151) 4.30 Harigume (3467335) 5.00 Sared by the Bel (4881847) 5.30 Colifornia (348828) 6.30 Madison (3462890) 7.00ak High (9659731)

132558471 **6.00** % Men (3246460) **6.30-7.00** Goosebumps (3236712)

6.00am Road to Avorties (90644) 7.00 Dernis the Mensice (54915) 8.00 Balman (10847) 8.30 An Attack (19118) 9.00 Flash Gridon (93170) 9.30 Bobby's World (93620) 10.30 Robinson Sucroe (93354) 11.00 Danger Mouse (74640) 11.30 Gravednie High (22489) 12.00 Oscar's Ordhesha (2066) 12.30 m Helmyn Acmes the Galaxy and Turn Left (17248) 1.00 By Way of the Stars (57441) 1.30 The New Adventures of Bloch Beauty (49847) 2.00 The Grif from Tomorrow (6151) 2.30 Ocean Octycsey (199) 3.00 Art Attack (5266) 3.30 Flash Gordon (6544) 4.00 Balmen (6151)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

Monsters (3969199) 9.300 Twisted (4567489) 10.00 Your of Duty (8568002) 11.00 FiLM: Cruel Passion (2746118) 1.00em Sarsty and Funch (4240132) 2.00 Tour of Duty (1749687) 3.00 FiLM: Cruel Passion (373956) 5.00 The New Twis CHALLENGE TV

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Rossame (2793) 7.30 Roseanns (7118) 8.00 Enieranmen UK (1441) 8.30 Airnosi Perieci (7248) 9.00 Cheors (16422) 9.30 Cyori (99828) 10.00 Fresier (43151) 10.30 Monty Python (69199) 11.00 Move Club (28267) 11.30 Nightstand (25064 12.30am Siedoehammer (91671) 1,00 Table 1 19687 1.90 Cybl (70836) 2.06 Entertainment UK (85233) 2.30 Move Curb (91958) 2.00 Frasier (44923) 3.30-4.00

THE SCIFT CHANNEL 1,80am The Tellight Zone (9926107) 1.30 Tales of the Unempoted (5648497) 2.00 Tales of the Unexpected (5648497) 2.00 Friday the 13th (6981720) 3.00-4.00 Dark Shadows (9839671)

HOME & LEISURE 9.00em The Joy of Painting (7322151) 9.30 Bartener's Deay (4569060) 10.00 Sciesam-ng Reels (441854) 10.30 Doing it Up (732838) 11.00 The Painted House (9352809) 11.30 This Old House (935358) 12.00 Yan Can Cook (7345915) 12.30pm Graham Kerr (4570199) 1.00 Today's Gourmot (8365118) 1.30 Homa Agant (4562170) 2.00 Hometime (4863441) 2.30 (4862170) 2.00 Homeanne (4863441) 2.30 Furmiume to Go (3483373) 3.00 Two's Country Cooking (4859248) 3.30-4.00 This Old House (3495118)

DISCOVERY 4.00pm High Fire (3474525) 4.30 Driving Passions (3470809) 5.00 Terra X (4854793) Hear (3484002) 6.36 The Global Family (3475354) 7.00 Bayand 2000 (4874557) 7.00 Dessier (3471538) 8,00 Jurassico 2 (8848525) 9,00 Bourny Hunters (8668489) 10,00 Justice Fries (8638248) 11,00 Classic Wheels (8342267) 12,00 After Desert Storm (8803315) 1.00 Disaster (1407854) 1.30-2.00 Beyond 2000 (2626300)

4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (5236977) 5,60

Win with Prize Time hace an hour 5.05pm Cross Wirs (9031002) 6.50 Family Fortunes (522335) 6.20 Challenge TV's Family Days Curl (640064) 6.30 Catchiphress (933373) 7.06 Wintor Takes All (805199) 7.40 Giye Us A Clue (905101)

All (80519) 7-A0 Give Us A Cue (805101) 8-20 All Cluer Up (928809) 9-00 Through the hejinole (790847) 9-25 Challenge TV's InnQuizinon (144644) 9-38 Sole of the Century (655248) 10-08 Treasure Hunt (127335) 11-20 Studis (992161) 12-00 Wirmer Takes All (52994) 12-20pcm Hart to Hart (14381) 1-30 Mooning/may (46726) 2-30 Jahr and the Fot (88528) 3-30 My Tem Dadis (40594) 4-00 The Fell Guy (65519)

UK LIVING

5.00am Trny Living (30800199) 9.05 Glodrogs and Glamour (7055499) 9.15 Gordon Etioti (7330083) 10.05 Jerry Springer (3295070) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (7508002) 11.50 The P and Mrs. Show (9722712) 12.25pm Why Me? (19822083) 12.55 Tempesti (2494688) Me? (1982/083) 12.55 Tempest (2494688) 1.40 Riolonda (6003847) 2.30 The Agony Experience (7108899) 3.00 Live at Three (92124557) 4.05 Jerry Springer (4679083) 5.05 Lingo (44964064) 5.30 Lindy Ledders (7103625) 8.00 1 Dreem of Jeanne (5066606) 6.35 The Heat Is On (9745248) 7.05 Hearts Arre (4371199) 7.35 Intellution Uk (6963267) 8.05 Rolonda (6704460) 9.00 (2173606) 11.00-12.00 The Sex Zone

ZEE TV 7.00am Jaegran 7.30 Zabaan Sambhai Ke 7.00cm Jebgran 7.30 Zebeen Samphel Ke 8.00 Geane Anjeane 8.30 Postink Health Show 9.00 Pumpin Folk 9.30 Yasadon Ke Rang 10.00 Challo Chema 10.30 Turchare Schare 11.00 Zesie ka Sefar 11.30 Hestetten 12.00 Andez 12.30pm Reshal 1.00 FILM: Sim Magen 4.00 ZEE Zone 4.06 komat Kombination 8 95 Seane Sent 5.00 Zone Time 6.25 Young Buzz 6.00 Box Ke Pg 6.30 ZEE and You 7.00 Shu Chak Chef 7.30 Ashaa 8.00 News 8.35 Perempera 9.05-12.00 FILM: Hulchel

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop indees and the best new sounds

The 24 hour music channel, includes ns, reviews. The concert lootage, interest and the latest music video charts

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FRIDAY MAY 9 1997

Defender relinquishes dual role

# Pearce hands Forest reins over to Bassett

STUART PEARCE'S fliration with football management will end on Sunday, when Nottingham Forest bid farewell to the FA Carling Premiership after their game against Newcastle United at St James' Park. Pearce, the England and Forest defender. announced yesterday that he is to relinquish his dual role as player and caretaker manager. He will be replaced by Dave Bassett, the club's general manager.

The move, though no sur-prise, at least concludes Forest's disappointing campaign on a positive note, with the respective jobs at the City Ground now clearly defined. Pearce will play next season. in the Nationwide League first division, and Bassett will manage. The confusion about who was doing what, which had plagued Forest since Bassett's arrival in February, has been resolved.

"I'm stepping down from managing and reverting to just being a player." Pearce, 35. said yesterday. "I feel as though some rebuilding needs doing at the club and, with the constraints on my time from

wouldn't really be able to get out and about scouting for

"It's probably best if I step down, because to do the job the way I'd like to do it, I'd prefer to go out and look at players myself. If I'm not able to do that, I'm not really prepared to sit back and take someone else's word for it." Pearce denied reports that

there had been tension between him and Bassett, who appointed after the lengthy takeover of the club had been completed. "I think people tried to drive a wedge between us." he said, "but I've



Pearce: commitments

got no problem working with Dave."

Bassett, 52, accepted the promotion with mixed feelings. Crystal Palace, his former club, will play in the Premiership next season if they successfully negotiate the first division play-offs. They play Wolverhampton Wanderers in the first leg of their semi-final at Selhurst Park tomorrow.

"Stuart remains in charge on Sunday and I'll take over on Monday," Bassett said. We've been relegated, we can't escape that, and the objective now is to get back at the first attempt. There was always the chance if Stuart stood down. I'd be back at the sharp end. I would have preferred to have been taking charge of the club while we were still in the Premiership. but we'll just have to get back the hard way, by winning promotion next year."

Forest's season had begun promisingly, with a 3-0 victory away to Coventry City, but, with the takeover rumbling along in the background casting doubt over the future of the club and restricting Frank Clark, then the manager, in his purchasing power the slide became unstoppable They did not win any of their next to league fixtures and had become rooted to the foot of ember. Six days before Christmas, Clark could take no

more. He resigned, later to reemerge at Manchester City. Pearce assumed control, albeit reluctantly, and had an immediate effect. He was successful in his first game in charge, a 2-1 home victory against Arsenal, and Forest won three of their next five league matches, rising to seventeenth place. Since then, though, there has been little to

enthuse about. Forest have won only once in 14 outings - they also made an ignominious FA Cup fifthround exit against Chesterfield - and relegation was confirmed last weekend. Pearce gradually accepted the inevitable: he was not yet ready to finish playing, he was

not yet ready for management. The job probably came a couple of years too early," he said. "but, at the time, the club was in a bit of a jam. I've no regrets, though. I've always made decisions honestly and (ve always strick by them. Perhaps other people in my position, thinking that the club would probably go down in five months' time, might not have taken it on. I'm not that

Bassett paid tribute to his predecessor and remains optimistic. Stuart has shown he's not frightened to make decisions," he said. "He was there when the club needed him and will still be there when I need him. Life is full of challenges and, hopefully, this is the start of a new era at Forest. I'm not interested in what's gone before. From Monday, it's a clean slate."

THE British Record Fish

Committee (BRFC) has re-

fused to accept a 99lb Wels

catfish taken from an Essex

pond in November as a

record for the species unless

proof can be provided that the

The capture of the fish

caused a sensation when it

was reported by Steve Bond

from a two-acre take at Oak

Lodge, Rayleigh, near South-

end. Since catfish were intro-

duced to Great Britain more

than 100 years ago, the fish

have spread to several lakes

in the home counties and

have established cult status

with some anglers. However,

nothing remotely the size of

Indeed, the fish, 7ft long,

was big beyond all compre-

hension - 38lb bigger than

the existing catfish record.

half as heavy again as the

ancient salmon record. 44lb

heavier than the biggest carp

ever caught in Britain, twice

the size of the biggest pike.

Bond's fish had been taken.

pond was stocked legally.

Wizards in the United States and others will make less

Smith enjoyed the triumph. but his celebrations must be truncated. "In 1991," he said, change was forced upon us by the introduction of the three foreigners rule in European matches. We sold eight players and brought in six then. I don't know if we'll be acting on that scale again, but it could be that we will. It's difficult to talk about it because these players have been terrific for me and I have the highest regard for their determination to keep on winning. I'm disappointed that I have to make

decisions that will end an era for a successful team." Sentimentality, though, will be no obstacle and two players - Jonas Thern, of AS Roma,

and Tony Vidmar, of NAC Breda — have already agreed to join Rangers. Other negoti-ations are in process and it is chable that another signings will be made over the next few weeks. Yesterday, it was hard to tell whether Smith was looking back over a triumph or simply previewing the new season.

Smith, right, celebrates Rangers' title triumph with Gascoigne, who may find he has several new team-mates next season. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Rangers are required to enter the European Cup at the pre-qualifying stage and play their first match on July 23. A month before that, the squad scheduled to return to training. Uefa, European football's ruling body, has devised a format that forces all clubs from the smaller nations into early action. We would more or less have to win the European Cup to be exempt from pre-qualifying," Smith

fact that Rangers have not good enough." Smith said. "In six years, we have qualified for the Champions League group stage three times, but we have not acquitted ourselves well there. I do believe, though, that we will be able to compete on a better and more regular basis now that the three foreigner limitation has been abolished."

Respectability in the compe-

We cannot run away from the

Smith has reconciled himself to the fact that Scots are likely to make up only a minority of his side in future. Aiready, Rangers have learned to depend on the imports and the only goal against Dundee United was scored by Brian Laudrup, the Dane. The fine display of Paul Gascoigne, however, demon-

Smith prepares to recreate Rangers acquaint themselves with the passion of Rangers.

Having overcome a thigh strain with unexpected speed, there is even Gascoigne will now achieve full fitness in time for England's World Cup qualifying match with Poland on May 31 Until Wednesday, the midfield player had not started a match since January 25 and Rangers will be content if football occupies his energies for a few weeks more.

Gascoigne can present a club with difficulties, but it has been Smith's art to recruit players from all over the world and instil in them a respect for Rangers' stature and a desire to add to its glories.

O'Neill's joy, page 40 Vase promise, page 40

## Bonds walks into the lions' den at Millwall

MILLWALL appointed their third manager in as many months yesterday when Billy Bonds joined the Nationwide League second division club (Russell Kempson writes). He replaced John Docherty, who

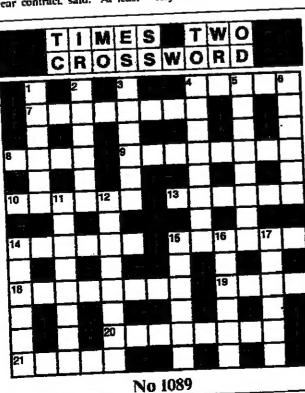
resigned last week. Bonds, 50, the former West Ham United manager, faces an unenviable task. Millwall faded after a promising start to the season, eventually finishing in thirteenth place, and the club is still being run by administrators.

"I know it's going to be a real challenge we'll need maximum effort from everybody to turn things around." Bonds, who has signed a two-year contract, said, "At least

the club is now back on a level financial footing, even if I'm not going to have much

money to spend. "It means rolling up our sleeves and working hard for the club, but then Millwall supporters have been brought up on that type of thing. It is what they would expect. I've always lived in south London, even when I was playing for West Ham, so this is where

my roots are."
Bonds left West Ham where he had played and coached for more than 20 years, on the eve of the 1994-95 season. He has since coached at several clubs, including Queens Park Rangers, under Ray Wilkins, and Reading.



- ACROSS 4 Winged boy with bow (5)

7 Wide view (S) Steering apparatus (4)

9 Capt Nemo's sub; a mol-

10 Showy: impudent blaring

13 Illegible writing (6)

14 Offend (6)

15 Calculate (6) 18 Shake-speare's fat knight (8)

19 Prevalent (4) 20 Blend together (8) 21 Hostile investment (5) Turn up: seem (6) III-feeling (6) Island group inc. Hoy (6)

Bib. text sung in church (8) 5 Take advantage of one's status (4.4) Girl (poet.) (6)

11 Unqualified: utter (8) 12 Sun's turning point (8) Deduces (6)

15 Disturb calm. order of (6) 16 Cherry-red (t) 17 Discordant, out of tune (3-

The solution to 1988 will be published Wednesday, May 14

The solution to 1988 with the plantage of the control of the Section 1988 with the plantage of the control of the Course of the

### "The ideas are no more than half-cocked," David Guterman, the Chester City chairman, said. "The bottom line is that these proposals would

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON lpswich Town, was not shared

by his colleagues.

AFTER six hours of debate yesterday, much of it heated, the Football League threw out recommendations to radically restructure its format. Representatives of the 72 clubs decided that the main thrust of the proposals that the Nationwide League third division should merge with the Vauxhall Conference would not

By Kevin McCarra

Walter Smith leapt on top of a

huddle of Rangers players,

hugging the men who, with

their 1-0 victory over Dundee

United at Tannadice, had

secured a ninth successive

Scottish League premier divi-

sion championship. Now,

however, the manager will

tear his team apart. The

dismantling of the side almost

feels like a betrayal to him, but

The club's progress towards a title that matches the record

set by Jock Stein's Celtic,

between 1966 and 1974, was

bedevilled by injuries and

Smith admits that the ail-

ments had been virtually inev-

itable in a squad that has

grown elderly. Richard

the captain, now

it is, in fact, a duty.

WEDNESDAY night.

The report, commissioned for about £100,000, was presented by Deloitte & Touche, the management consultancy firm, on Tuesday. However the initial enthusiasm of David Sheepshanks, the chairman of the League and have meant the third division sides joining the Vauxhall Conference, not the Conference joining the League. As far as I am concerned, first division's dirty work.

this is a report that was commissioned just to do the These are ridiculous propos-als, drawn up at great cost, and now rightly thrown out at

Other recommendations in

the report received a more favourable response. It is now likely that the League will switch its headquarters from Lytham St Anne's in Lancashire to London and it will also appoint a chief executive, independent chairman and commercial director.

"I'm very pleased that fourfifths of the report has received widespread agreement." Sheepshanks said

"Everyone wants to see the League more commercially driven, which will be for the benefit of all." The accepted proposals will be ratified at the League's annual meeting next month.

where else in the United

# Authorities smell something fishy

Brian Clarke reports on a record catch that may have come from warmer climes

Bond lodged a claim for the record immediately, a fact that surprised nobody given that he owned the lake. The capture of a record on any

water increases the price that an owner can demand of anglers wishing to fish it. However, a statement now issued by the BRFC says that. as there is no record of catfish being previously caught at Oak Lodge the committee requires production of "consent certificates under the Salmon and Freshwater Fish-

eries Act 1975 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981". These are the acts that regulate the movement of fish between inland waters and the introduction to them of non-native species. The statement says that Bond's claim cannot be considered further without such certificates and

that Bond has been informed of this.

At the time of the capture. Bond said that a number of catlish had been introduced to the lake by the previous owners in the mid-1970s and that the lake had scarcely been fished since. He denied rumours that the "record" fish had been smuggled in. Nothing like that has ever been put in." he said. "It is all just jealousy."

A spokesman for the Environment Agency (EA), however, confirmed yesterday that Dr Tony Owen, the head of fisheries, had taken the unusual step of writing to the BRFC. Owen's letter said: "it is extremely unlikely that the 991b Wels catfish caught by Mr Steve Bond at his Essex lishery grew to such a size at that fishery or, indeed, any-

Kingdom. The temperature of UK waters, and therefore the amount of available food, is not high enough to allow fish to grow to such a size. The nearest area where a Wels catfish would be likely to grow to 99lb is southern

Europe. An EA spokesman expressed frustration with the state of the law. Exotic fish; can carry all sorts of discases," he said. "We are awareof many more incidents of them being illegally introduced than we have evidence to prosecute. We presently need to catch people red-handed actually putting them

in, before we can act." What was needed, he said, were powers to net out any exotic fish stocked without authority. If such powers existed, they would remove all incentive to publicise the presence of the fish - and publicity on angling waters was usually the name of the game.

